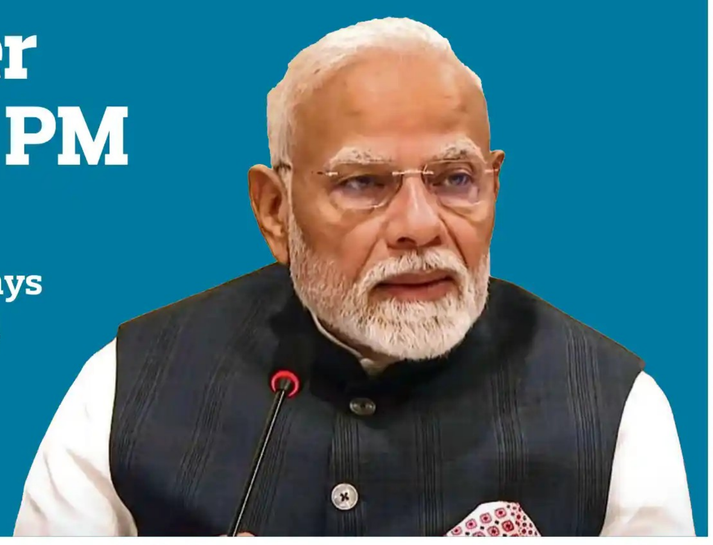
DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Terror will never succeed: PM

On Pahalgam anniversary, Modi says nation stands united

Page 11



Bengal, TN polls today

The first phase of polling for the West Bengal Assembly polls will be held on Thursday. The electorate for the first phase includes 1.84 crore men and 1.75 crore women. In Tamil Nadu, an estimated 5.73 crore voters are eligible to vote in Thursday's polls.

Details on Page 7
EC notice to Kharge, **Page 7**

Ranya walks out of prison

Gold-smuggling accused Ranya Rao walked out of prison on Wednesday after her year-long detention under the anti-smuggling law ended. While Ranya was granted bail earlier, she continued in prison under the COFEPOSA.

Details on Page 3

Online gaming rules notified

The Centre has notified the rules to operationalise the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, paving the way for an 'online gaming authority', and setting a "regulation-light" framework that would not require mandatory registration for most online social games.

Details on Page 10

Iran seizes 2 ships as Trump extends truce

One ship seized by IRGC was likely heading to India

DUBAI/WASHINGTON/ ISLAMABAD, AGENCIES

Iranian forces fired on three ships and seized two of them in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday even as US President Donald Trump extended the ceasefire with Iran indefinitely.

In a social media post, Trump said he had renewed the truce on a request from Pakistan, which is trying to mediate an end to the war. He said the ceasefire would remain in place until Iran's "leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal".

Trump has not set a timeline for the extension of a ceasefire with Iran.

US Vice President JD Vance's planned trip to Pakistan for a second round of peace talks was put on hold Tuesday because Iran had not responded to US demands.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the US breach of commitments and its blockade of Iranian ports and threats are the main obstacles to "genuine negotiations".

On Wednesday, Iranian forces targeted three container ships, seizing two and firing on a third. British maritime security agency UKMTO said an Iranian gunboat fired at a container ship off the coast of Oman, while a ship off Iran was also fired upon.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) accused the ships of breaching its blockade.

It named the two ships seized as the MSC-Francesca and the Epaminondas.

▸ Iran, Page 6

PERSPECTIVES OF FOES

1 Ahead of expiry of ceasefire, Trump and Iran leaders exchange threats

2 US thinks Iran's "seriously fractured" leadership is unable to make a decision

3 Trump wants a "unified proposal" from Iran

4 Trump says he extended ceasefire to give Iran time to respond to US demands

5 From Tehran's perspective, Trump blinked first

6 Iranian leaders likely to see their readiness to endure war's pain as higher than Trump's and global economy's

7 Experts say Iranians measure timeline in months for themselves, and in weeks for Trump

8 Both see themselves as being able to dictate terms

A US Navy ship patrolling the Arabian Sea during the maritime blockade of Iranian ports. AFP

India says no payments

India on Wednesday denied making any payments, either in cash or cryptocurrency, to Iran to secure passage for its vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. The clarification came after two Indian vessels had to turn back from the strait after Iranian forces fired upon them.

US tourist sexually assaulted in Kodagu homestay, 2 arrested

MANGALURU, DHNS: Two persons, including the owner of a homestay in Kutta in Kodagu near the Kerala border, were arrested in connection with sexual assault on a US tourist a few days ago.

According to police sources, the incident came to light when the tourist complained to the United States Embassy that she was sexually assaulted after being given a drink laced with intoxicants by a staffer from Jharkhand.

The owner of the homestay, in an attempt to hush up the incident, had allegedly disconnected the WiFi.

He was also accused of failing to inform the police.

Acting on the information received from the embassy, the police immediately launched an operation and arrested the two suspects, including the homestay owner.

Kodagu superintendent of police R N Bindumani refused to disclose further information about the suspects, saying the case was sensitive and details cannot be revealed.

The incident triggered widespread discussions on social media.

Responding to allegations on social media, the SP clarified that a case was registered immediately and the suspects were arrested without delay.

"No US Embassy officials visited Kodagu," the SP clarified.

Home Minister G Parameshwara said that as soon as the matter came to light, the police arrested the suspects.

▸ US tourist, Page 6

State govt moves apex court seeking ban on bike taxis

Decision contrasts with CM's assurance on framing policy

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka filed an appeal in the Supreme Court on Tuesday challenging the Karnataka High Court order passed in January that favoured bike taxis, according to a senior official from the Transport Department.

"We have filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP), and it has been admitted successfully. There are many flaws in the high court order, which we are challenging," he told *DH*.

This move by the state government contrasts sharply with the position earlier outlined by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

In the January 2 letter, the chief minister said that, in line with high court directions, he had instructed Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and the chief secretary to begin drafting guidelines to allow bike taxis in the state.

This was in response to a letter from Rahul, in which he highlighted the livelihood of thousands dependent on bike taxis.

In August 2025, the Bike Taxi Welfare Association of India met Rahul in New Delhi, seeking his intervention to form a clear policy to regulate bike taxi operations in the state.

▸ Bike taxis, Page 6

STATE'S CONTENTION

- Judgment misinterprets Motor Vehicles Act, 1988; undermines state's regulatory authority
- Granting permits for contract carriages, such as taxis, is not a right but a matter of discretion
- Motorcycles are not legally designed or classified as transport vehicles for carrying passengers for hire

PIL against land to Cong Bhavan

The high court of on Wednesday ordered notices to the state government and the Tumakuru deputy commissioner in PIL challenging allotment of two acres of land in Tumakuru in favour of Congress Bhavan Trust.

Details on Page 5

FORGING TOMORROW P 4

State bets on chatbots to ease staff crunch

Karnataka is developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Suite to automate routine office tasks to boost productivity as nearly one-third of government jobs lie vacant. The first phase of the AI Suite will also see the deployment of chatbots on public portals to interact with citizens and "reduce manual workload".

After 2 decades, HC discharges 4 accused in Malegaon blast case

MUMBAI, DHNS: Nearly two decades after bombs ripped through Malegaon killing 37 people, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday quashed a special court's order that had framed charges against the four men, effectively bringing the trial in one of the most-sensitive cases to a close.

A division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Shyam C Chandak set aside the September 30, 2025, order of the NIA court that had framed charges against the accused.

On September 8, 2006, three blasts at Bada Kabrastan, Mushawara Chowk, and Hamidiya Masjid claimed 37 lives and injured 312 others.

Details on Page 10

TEST SCORE P 3

SSLC Exam-1 results today

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board will announce the results of SSLC Examination-1 on Thursday. Following the High Court directive, marks will be awarded for the third language, said Minister Madhu Bangarappa.

Digital marks cards, Page 3

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Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

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Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Electronics and Communication Engineering

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN CORE COMPUTING
Computer Science and Engineering
Computer Science and Information Technology

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN EMERGING COMPUTING
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Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
Computer Science and Engineering (Internet of Things)

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Embedded System and VLSI Design
Computer Science and Engineering

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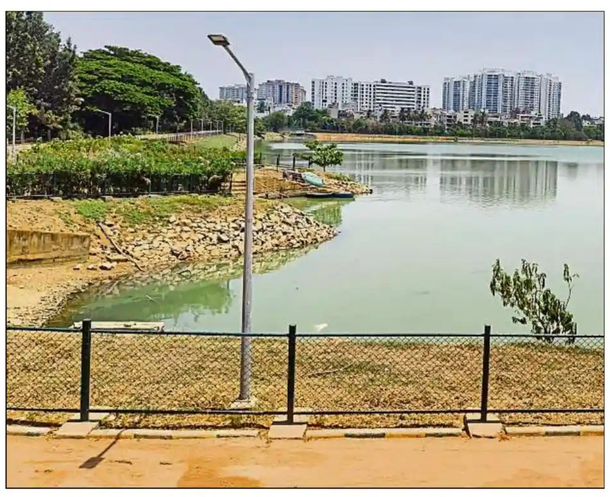
Sarakki Lake survey: 58 encroachments flagged, hundreds in buffer zone



Sarakki Lake in Puttenahalli once stretched across 82.19 acres, but over the years its waters have steadily receded, revealing how much the lake has shrunk with time. DH PHOTOS/NIKHIL CARIAPPA

Action follows HC order to identify and raze buildings in buffer zone

NIKHIL CARIAPPA & NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A joint survey by the Bengaluru South City Corporation and the Assistant Director of Land Records has found 58 encroachments on Sarakki Lake in South Bengaluru, including a public road.

Hundreds of buildings have come up in the no-development zone of the 84-acre lake. The survey report will be placed before the High Court, officials said.

The encroachments include houses, commercial establishments and a temple.

Surveyors have marked the lake's boundary by writing numbers on the encroached properties. A portion of the Shri Balamuri Prasanna Mahaganapathi Temple has also been marked as an encroachment.

Officials said buildings within the lake's 24-metre (78-feet) buffer zone had also been marked as part of the exercise.

In February, a division bench of the high court had directed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to constitute a committee for clearing encroachments and protecting the waterbody. The Chief Secretary formed the committee and set in motion the exercise of identifying encroachments. The committee has three months to submit an action-taken report, as per the court's order.

One of the 'encroached' buildings marked in red by surveyors.

Sarakki Lake is located in Puttenahalli, between the 6th and 7th phases of JP Nagar, spread over 82.19 acres with a catchment area of 5.65 sqkm. The waterbody has undergone significant changes in its topography, especially after the formation of a public road that reduced its size and allowed construction on what was supposed to be the buffer zone.

Residents in shock

The marking of the properties has sent shockwaves through residents, who believe most buildings were constructed decades ago. They blamed the civic body for issuing sanctioned plans and collecting taxes from residents all these years.

Some of them met Bommanahalli MLA M Satish Reddy and Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya, requesting them to intervene.

Kokila, a resident whose house was marked in the survey, said officials came 20 to 25 days ago along with a police constable for the survey. "When I asked them about it, they said the house is within the buffer zone. We are stressed. They did not give us any notice or information in writing," she said.

Some of the encroached properties are rented out for residential or commercial use.

Moni, who lives as a tenant on one such property, questioned why government action was limited to Sarakki Lake alone when buffer zone violations are widespread across the city.

"If officials demolish the buildings, should people live on the streets?" he asked, adding that he has been living in the house since 2009.

GBA chief inspects flood-hit Sai Layout, sets deadlines

Asks engineers to penalise contractor if delays continue

BENGALURU, DHNS

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday inspected Sai Layout in north Bengaluru, which has faced repeated flooding over the years.

He reviewed the widening of the Geddalahalli railway vent, key to easing stormwater flow, and assessed white-topping work on Hennur Road.

Rao encountered damaged roads and uncollected garbage in the area, now under the Bengaluru East City Corporation.

He said permission had been obtained from the South Western Railway (SWR) to push a concrete box to widen the railway vent blocking the stormwater drain.

"The work will be completed by May-end," he said. "Girders have been installed to ensure that train movement is not disrupted, and one box has been pushed up to 12 metres. Another box work is almost complete and will be finished by May 30. Parallelly, RCC retaining wall work will also be completed," he said.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspects ongoing works at Geddalahalli in Sai Layout, where the railway vent is being widened to ensure smooth water flow. PHOTO: GBA

He said the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is constructing another vent near Sai Layout.

Rao directed engineers to desilt the Hebbal valley near the Geddalahalli railway vent to ensure smooth rainwater flow during the monsoon.

He also inspected white-topping work on Hennur-Bagalur Road, which has been slow. "So far, 4.2 km on one side and 2.2 km on the other side have been completed," he said, adding the firm has been asked to deploy more staff. He directed engineers to penalise the contractor if delays continue.

He later instructed officials to remove an unused public toilet on K Narayanapura Road to ease vehicular movement.

The civic body chief visited Prakash Layout near Vaddarapalya, Babusapalya Main Road and Horamavu Agara Main Road, which are in poor condition.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh was part of the visit.

North Corp chief flags staff absenteeism in SWM wing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar on Wednesday pulled up Sarvagnanagar officials over frequent absenteeism among SWM staff.

He noted that many pourakarmikas, supervisors and junior health inspectors were regularly absent, adding that weak monitoring was driving recurring cleanliness complaints.

He directed officials to submit division-wise and ward-wise details of workforce allocation, including gang work, within two days. He said junior health inspectors must monitor each pourakarmika to ensure supervision.

The commissioner also sought detailed reports on marshal deployment during night and early morning shifts, including penalties imposed and action taken against illegal waste dumping.

Bannerghatta Road repairs pending

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru South City Corporation on Wednesday said full asphalting of Bannerghatta Road has not been taken up, citing ongoing BWSSB works.

The clarification follows reports alleging poor repair work. "The BWSSB laid sewage pipelines on Bannerghatta Main Road. As the road surface was damaged, it had restored approximately one km of the stretch between Kalyani Choultry and the IIMB metro station," it said.

It said Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) has begun plans for comprehensive development of Bannerghatta Road from Hosur Road to Kalena Agrahara Junction. "The Detailed Project Report for this is currently being prepared," it added.

DRY DAYS

Children play cricket on the parched bed of Sunkalpalya Lake near Uttarahalli as summer tightens its grip on Bengaluru, with receding water levels exposing vast stretches of dry land. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Sanchari Cauvery cushions price rise amid tanker demand

BENGALURU, DHNS

As temperatures rise, demand for water tankers has increased across the city.

Data from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) shows that the Sanchari Cauvery initiative, which supplies Cauvery water through tankers, has seen a steady rise in orders since January.

Orders stood at 4,241 in January, a 22% rise from December. In February, orders increased to 5,980, up 42% from January. Demand stabilised in March at 4,439 orders.

Officials said bulk orders from apartment complexes have remained steady, while demand from individual houses has risen in recent months.

"Apartment complexes have a constant dependency on water tankers, but that is not the case with individual houses. They need water tankers only when their borewells dry up in the summer. Hence, over the last two months, the orders from individual houses have increased," a senior BWSSB official said.

The BWSSB has expanded its fleet to meet rising demand and reduce groundwater exploitation.

BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V said the Sanchari Cauvery initiative has helped curb price inflation by private tanker operators.

"Earlier, the prices would be inflated in the summer as private tankers had their own pricing. Now, with Sanchari Cauvery, we have been able to keep the prices under check," Manohar said.

Private tanker operators said demand typically rises by 15% to 20% during summer.

Water supply disruption

BENGALURU, DHNS: Water supply was disrupted across Bengaluru on Wednesday due to a technical fault at the 220 kVA power station in Tataguni, which supplies Cauvery water to the city.

Immediate repair work had been initiated, with a team of experts working to resolve the issue, BWSSB Chairman Ramprasath Manohar V said.

Traffic opens on Bengaluru's first double-decker flyover ramp on trial basis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's first double-decker flyover project has been completed, with the traffic police opening the HSR Layout–Ragigudda ramp on an experimental basis on Wednesday.

"Today, vehicle movement has been allowed on an experimental basis on the double-decker flyover from HSR 5th Main to Jayanagar (Ragigudda) on the Outer Ring Road, within the limits of the Madiwala Traffic Police Station of the Traffic South-East Subdivision," the Southeast Traffic Police posted on X.

The city traffic police inspected the flyover on April 2. Although it was confirmed to be ready for use, its opening was delayed pending formal approval.

Officials had earlier confirmed that the ramps connecting HSR Layout to BTM Layout and Ragigudda were ready for public use and to run beneath the Metro's Yellow Line.

Traffic police allow vehicular movement onto the HSR Layout-Ragigudda ramp of the double-decker flyover project on Wednesday. PHOTO: BTP

DH had previously reported that, to ensure safety, a strict speed limit of 40 kmph has been imposed on the ramps. Vehicles weighing up to 50 tonnes are permitted.

The ramps connecting Ragigudda to Hosur Road, BTM Layout, and HSR Layout were partially opened in July 2024.

Authorities expect the project to reduce traffic congestion between HSR Layout and Jayadeva Hospital by as much as 80%, the report stated.

CA booked for Rs 1.81-cr fraud over fabricated tax records

BENGALURU, DHNS: A chartered accountant has been booked for allegedly cheating a Bengaluru-based businessman of over Rs 1.81 crore over a period of more than a decade by fabricating tax payment records and overcharging him in the name of statutory dues.

Gopal K Saluja, who runs a manpower consultancy firm, alleged that he appointed Rishi Jain in 2008 to handle his financial and taxation matters, including income tax and GST filings.

As per the FIR, Saluja, a resident of HSR Layout, had limited knowledge of taxation procedures and entrusted Jain with full responsibility of maintaining accounts, filing returns, and making payments to the Income Tax and GST departments.

Jain reportedly communicated with him through WhatsApp and email and collected documents and payments as required.

The alleged fraud came to light during an audit conducted in July 2025 for the 2024–25 financial year, when discrepancies were noticed in the accounts. A detailed scrutiny reportedly revealed that Jain had systematically misappropriated funds.

Police further said Jain had allegedly collected around Rs 13 lakh in excess of the actual tax liability for a single assessment period and submitted fabricated "income tax paid" challans worth Rs 10.65 lakh, purportedly issued by a nationalised bank and bearing forged seals.

Financial records over the past 10 years indicate that the accused overcharged approximately Rs 1.81 crore in the name of income tax, GST, and other statutory payments.

Software engineer dies by suicide; dowry case filed

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 29-year-old software engineer died by suicide following alleged dowry harassment by her husband and in-laws in JP Nagar 8th Phase, police said.

Bhuvaneshwari, a native of Tamil Nadu, allegedly hanged herself in her flat on Monday afternoon. She was married to software engineer Harish Kumar. The couple has a one-year-old child.

Police said the couple married four years ago with the consent of both families after being in a relationship. At the time of marriage, her family spent Rs 25 lakh, including Rs 3 lakh on gold.

After marriage, Bhuvaneshwari allegedly faced mental and physical harassment from her husband and his family over demands for more money.

A few months ago, Kumar moved back to Tamil Nadu, while Bhuvaneshwari lived with her parents and child in Bengaluru. He had also been pressuring her for divorce and had not visited even when their child was unwell.

Based on a complaint from her father Anbalagan, Thalaghattapura police registered a case of dowry harassment against Kumar, his mother Kartigaivalli and brother Rakesh Kumar.

Further investigation is underway.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104)

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Protest meeting: Regarding SIR; BR Patil, Naseer Ahmed, GC Chandrashekhar and others to participate; Freedom Park; 10.30 am.

State-level Inter-College Folk Festival: Jagathika Janapada Habba; Ramalinga Reddy and Shivaraj Tangadagi to inaugurate; Town Hall, JC Road; 11 am.

World Book Day: Lecture on 'Individual and Books'; Kendra Sahitya Akademi; Suchendra Prasad to present the lecture; Kendra Sahitya Akademi South region office, Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Concert: 'Bangarada Manushya' on life of Dr Rajkumar; Jayamala, Prakash Raj, Mukhyamantri Chandru and others; Suraaghavi Foundation, Babu School of Rhythm, and Sangeetha Sambhrama; Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

Play: 'Muddannana Promotion Prasanga'; Presented by Rangatantra; Rangasthe; Yuvapatha, Jayanagar 4th Block; 7 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	23%
Sunset (Apr 23)	6:33 pm
Sunrise (Apr 24)	6:03 am
Moonrise	10:24 am
Moonset	11:50 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

HIGH RISK

Illegal tractor use, untrained drivers raise concerns

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 29-year-old businessman's death in Hulimavu after being run over by a tractor has exposed unsafe commercial use of agricultural vehicles in the city.

The incident, during a temple procession earlier this month, has drawn attention to the unregulated use of tractors on city roads. While these vehicles help navigate narrow layouts, lack of oversight is proving dangerous.

In the North and East zones, where landfilling and high-rise construction are widespread, the issue is severe.

Tractor owners admit driver background checks are absent.

"We do not check for commercial licences. If a person can handle the clutch and reverse a trailer into a tight construction site, he is hired," said a tractor owner in Mahadevapura.

"Most drivers are migrant labourers willing to work for low wages. Checking their insurance eligibility or driving history is not a priority when deadlines have to be met," he added.

A tractor carrying construction material on Mysuru Road. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

> We do not check for commercial licences. If a person can handle the clutch and reverse a trailer into a tight construction site, he is hired. Most drivers are migrant labourers willing to work for low wages. Checking their insurance eligibility or driving history is not a priority when deadlines have to be met.
> **Ttractor owner in Mahadevapura**

Residents in the outskirts say the problem worsens after peak-hour restrictions are lifted.

"After 10 pm, these tractors race through Sarjapur and Whitefield. They rarely have reflectors and the trailers sway dangerously," said Sandeep Rao, a resident of East Bengaluru.

"Many register tractors under the agriculture category to avail of lifetime tax benefits and white-board status," an RTO official said.

"These are non-transport vehicles meant for fields, but they are increasingly misused for commercial purposes like hauling construction debris and landfill waste," the official added.

Senior traffic police officers said many drivers are migrant labourers without valid licences or insurance.

"When we intercept them, they plead poverty or claim to be farmers to gain sympathy," an officer said.

"The real problem arises during accidents. A tractor and its trailer have separate insurance. If a trailer runs over someone, the engine's insurance may become invalid, leaving families without compensation," he added.

Total ban not feasible: DCPs

The DCPs of North and East (Traffic) said a total ban is not feasible. Older layouts and narrow roads cannot accommodate large lorries, making tractors necessary for debris movement. "However, we are stepping up night patrolling and working with the RTO to cancel permits for repeat offenders."

KSPCB notice to GBA for building STP on lake bed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued a notice to the Mahadevapura division of the Greater Bengaluru Authority after it was found that a sewage treatment plant (STP) had been constructed on the bed of Doddakannelli Lake.

The National Green Tribunal, hearing a petition filed by R Anjaneya Reddy, directed KSPCB to inspect the lake, which is spread across 18 acres and 35 guntas. Despite a diversion weir being built to prevent the flow of sewage into it, the lake is not free of pollution.

In its notice to the executive engineer of Mahadevapura division, KSPCB noted that construction of an STP without obtaining the consent for establishment and operation was in violation of Section 25 and 26 of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The civic authority was directed to obtain the necessary clearances.

Meanwhile a test of the sample of the lake water confirmed the presence of contaminants.

The board said data between January and December 2025 shows that the water quality was Class D (propagation of wildlife, fisheries) or Class E (irrigation and industrial cooling or controlled waste disposal).

32 peacocks reported dead in Tumakuru in one week

TUMAKURU, DHNS: As many as 32 peacocks have died across Tumakuru taluk in the past week under mysterious circumstances, although officials of the Forest Department suspect that the soaring mercury levels in the district could be the cause.

Samples collected from the bodies of the peacocks have been dispatched to the laboratory for testing, and the cause of the peacocks' death can be conclusively explained only once the results of the tests arrive, said Forest Department officials.

"A team headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests has been constituted to probe the death of the peacocks," said Deputy Conservator of Forests B R Shashidhar.

Forest Department officials pointed out that the peacocks had not all died in a single village – the incidents had been reported in various villages across the taluk. They further added that they had not found any suspicious substances on the bodies of the peacocks.

The death of peacocks has been reported in Bommannahalli and Kolihalli in Urdigere hobli, and Byrasandra, Hullenahalli in Guloor hobli. While 11 peacocks died on April 11, as many died again on April 20, and 10 more died the next day.

Digital marks cards for SSLC students now

This will put an end to fake marks cards, says education dept

BENGALURU, DHNS

From this year, class 10 (SSLC) students will get digital marks cards.

The Department of School Education and Literacy, which had earlier announced digital marks cards for II PUC students during the declaration of the results, has said that the same facility will be extended even for the SSLC students now.

In an order, the department has said that, as this is the first year, both physical and digital marks cards will be available. But from the next academic year, it will be only digital marks cards through DigiLocker/National Academic Depository (NAD) for both SSLC and II PUC.

"The digital marks cards of students should be uploaded along with their Aadhaar ID, APAAR ID and photograph. For this year, both physical and digital copies of the marks cards should be made available and from the next year, no physical copies of the marks cards will be issued," reads the order.

The department has instructed to consider digital marks cards uploaded on DigiLocker/NAD during recruitment and for applying for higher studies.

Photo attached

Meanwhile, the department has clarified that even the digital form of marks cards will come with a photograph of the student.

Results to be announced today; marks awarded for 3rd language

The state government has decided to follow the High Court directions and award marks to third language subjects in SSLC this year.

The results of the SSLC examination 1 will be announced on Thursday at 12 noon. Revealing this after an hour-long meeting with Chief Minister Siddramaiah on Wednesday, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said, "We will follow the court directions with regard to awarding marks to third language subjects this year."

He, however, refused to give any further details on grace marks for third language subjects due to the confusion created.

The minister said, "We will disclose everything during the declaration of the results".

The results will be available at http://karresults.nic.in and the students will also receive results via SMS on their registered mobile numbers. Marks cards will be available on DigiLocker (http://digilocker.gov.in)

"The physical copies of the marks cards issued to students will have a photograph attached. The same format will be continued even for the digital form of the marks card," the department clarified.

The department said that the discontinuation of the physical copies of the marks cards will put an end to fake marks cards.

The department has instructed the Chairman of Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) to coordinate with the Project Director of NAD for faster transfer of the students' data.

Data transfer

"In a normal course, it takes 72 hours for the students' data to be transferred to NAD. The chairman of KSEAB has been directed to take necessary measures for faster transfer of data by coordinating with the authorities concerned," the department informed.

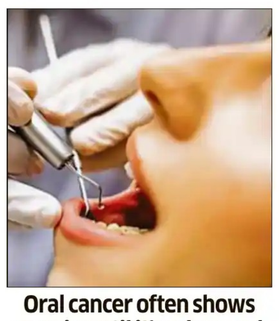
It can be recalled that in the last few years, all the state-run universities had discontinued issuing physical copies of marks cards and had been uploading the same on the DigiLocker.

However, if requested by students, universities are providing physical marks cards with minimal security features.

More young people diagnosed with oral cancer, say doctors

Symptoms often missed, leading to late detection

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS



Oral cancer often shows no pain until it's advanced. Early checks can save lives, say doctors.

Oral cancer is increasingly being detected among younger people in Bengaluru, doctors said, noting a shift from the traditionally older patient group.

Doctors said tobacco remains a major risk, while symptoms in younger patients are often overlooked, delaying diagnosis and early treatment.

Dr Rajeev Vijayakumar, HOD and Senior Consultant-Medical Oncologist, Hemato Oncologist and Bone Marrow Transplant physician, said, "We are seeing a shift in the age of patients. Oral cancer was traditionally more common in older individuals, but we do see younger patients now as well.

"Tobacco, in its various forms, still plays a major role, but what we also notice is that symptoms are sometimes overlooked or delayed, especially in younger people who may not expect something serious."

Dr Narayana Subramaniam, Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, said, "There is a big shift in the age profile of patients who are diagnosed with oral cancer. More and more, younger people in their 30s and 40s are getting diagnosed with cancer.

"Apart from traditional risks, other important factors like HPV infection, processed food diets, lack of micronutrients, and chronic stress are becoming more and more significant. A lower level of suspicion for malignancy in younger individuals may lead to delays in diagnosis."

Doctors said oral cancer symptoms are often painless, with pain appearing at a later stage.

Dr Lithika Lavanya, Consultant, Radiation Oncology, said, "Red or white patches on the inner side of the cheek and loosening of the side tooth are some of the main symptoms. They are usually painless and the attention draws towards it when it does not heal for days; 50-65% of the cases advance because pain was absent, initially."

Doctors said symptoms are often mistaken for dental issues.

Dr Saakshi Hinduja said, "Early symptoms like mouth ulcers, tooth pain, bleeding gums or swelling look like dental routine issues so patients usually visit dentists. When the problem is not cleared and there have been multiple visits for the same concern, we usually refer them to oncologists."

FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH CARE

Schoolkids hold a globe and posters to send across the 'save Earth' message on the occasion of the World Earth Day, at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

A year on, Ranya Rao walks out of jail as COFEPOSA detention ends

Other suspects Tarun Raju, Sahil Jain to be released shortly

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Ranya Rao

Gold-smuggling accused Kannada actor Harshavardhini Ranya alias Ranya Rao walked out of Bengaluru prison on Wednesday after her year-long detention under the stringent anti-smuggling law ended.

The directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI) will not be seeking any extension of the actor's detention, sources told *DH*.

Ranya, 33, the step-daughter of suspended IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, was arrested by the directorate on March 3, 2025, after she flew to Bengaluru from Dubai.

According to the directorate of revenue intelligence, the actor carried 14.2 kg of foreign-origin gold bars worth Rs 12.56 crore on her person.

Her associate, Tarun Konduru Raju alias Virat Konduru, 36, a US citizen, was arrested by the DRI six days later.

Raju, the DRI said, maintained close ties with Ranya and was her associate in gold smuggling.

Shared proceeds

Sahil Sakariya Jain, 27, a Ballari jeweller and the third suspect in the case, allegedly helped Ranya dispose of the gold, shared the proceeds from the sale and helped in hawala transactions. Jain was arrested on March 26 last year.

Bail granted

On May 20, the special court for economic offences granted statutory bail to Ranya and Raju on executing a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh each, along with two sureties. A few days later, the court granted bail to Jain on similar grounds.

However, all of them remained in the prison due to the stringent Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) of 1974.

The Act was invoked by the central government on Ranya and Raju on April 22. Jain was booked under the same Act the following day.

Detention despite bail

Later in July, the COFEPOSA advisory board under Section 8 of the Act recommended that the provisions remain in place for all three, leading to their detention despite bail.

Raju and Jain will also be released from detention shortly, officials said.

Last week, the Supreme Court upheld its preventive detention under the anti-smuggling law.

ED probe

A separate probe is also being conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which in February this year filed a prosecution complaint - equivalent to a police charge sheet - and alleged that Ranya and her associates smuggled 127.287 kg of gold worth Rs 102.55 crore into India in just one year.

Blindfold murder: Probe points to killing over talk about ex-girlfriend, refusal of marriage

BENGALURU, DHNS

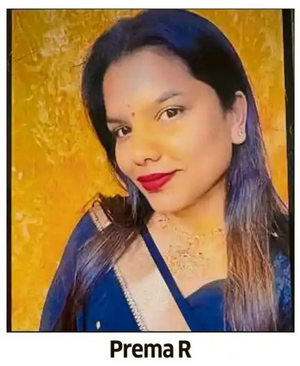
The investigation into the sensational blindfold murder in Byadarahalli has gathered pace, with police indicating that the crime was premeditated based on crucial evidence collected so far.

Police, who have taken the 27-year-old suspect, Prema R, into three-day custody, said material evidence suggests prior planning. She allegedly filmed the incident for over 12 minutes. Police are now examining a video recovered from her mobile phone as key digital evidence.

Kiran, who worked for a mobile network service provider, was allegedly burnt alive inside Prema's rented house in Anjanagar on Magadi Road on Tuesday.

While they were in a relationship for the past two years, tensions had been escalating for some time, a police officer said.

Kiran frequently spoke about his former girlfriend despite repeated objections from Prema, which reportedly led to frequent arguments. She was also pressuring him to marry her at the earliest. However, he allegedly expressed his inability, citing caste differences, which further intensified her anger and resentment, the officer added.



Prema R

Investigation officials learnt that Kiran had shared with friends his intention to distance himself from her, describing her behaviour as "abnormal". She had come to know about this days before the incident.

She meticulously planned the murder between two-three days, purchased four litres of kerosene in advance and procured petrol by emptying a water bottle bought from a nearby bakery and filling it at a fuel station. The inflammable substances were mixed in a bucket and kept ready in the bathroom, the officer explained.

When Kiran arrived at her house, she allegedly tied his hands and blindfolded him with a shawl on the pretext of surprising him. She asked him to undress and then poured the fuel mixture on him and set him on fire, the officer said.

Police believe she had initially planned to end her life by hanging herself in a bedroom after the act. However, she changed her mind as the flames and thick smoke quickly spread through the house.

Alerted by screams and smoke, neighbours rushed to the spot and knocked on the door. The accused then stepped out, reportedly covering herself with a bedsheet.

Prema initially attempted to pass off the incident as a suicide. However, inconsistencies in her statement and subsequent evidence led police to suspect foul play, the officer noted.

Investigators are examining her mobile phone to establish the exact sequence of events. The body was handed over to the family on Wednesday after a post-mortem at Victoria Hospital.

Police also revealed that Prema had allegedly promised Kiran she would buy him a sports bike worth Rs 4 lakh as a gift and had assured him of paying Rs 1 lakh as a booking amount.

Grief-stricken family

Narasimhaiah, father of the deceased, broke down outside the mortuary at Victoria Hospital. "We raised our son without any hardship and sent him to Bengaluru for work. We never imagined such a tragedy."

The family is from Linganahalli in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk of Tumakuru district. A relative, Veena, expressed anguish over the incident. "How can someone burn anyone like this? Who will now support his parents? Initially, we were told he was in the ICU. His mother collapsed on hearing that. If she learns he has died, she may not survive the shock," she said.

Kiran was the only surviving child in the family, which had earlier lost another child at a young age, she added.

PRECOCIOUS TO PRECIOUS

In mango mood? Pockets must weather price storm this season

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS:

A vendor sells mangoes on Jayamahal Main Road in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Severe hailstorms and unseasonal rains during the critical flowering stage have dealt a heavy blow to the state's mango harvest, sending prices skyrocketing by 20% to 25% compared to last year.

The state, which produced a robust 13 to 14 lakh metric tonnes of the king of fruits last season, is staring at a significantly reduced yield of 9 lakh to 10 lakh metric tonnes this year.

Officials from the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited attribute this dip to a combination of unseasonal rainfall, persistent humidity, cloudy weather and sudden pest infestations that triggered massive fruit drops, bruising both exports and local supply chain.

Major mango-growing hubs like Ramanagar, Kolar and Srinivasapur (Kolar district) famed for the premium Alphonso (Badami) variety have been hit hard.

Currently, vendors are procuring these varieties for Rs 180-200 per kg and retailing them to consumers at Rs 250-300 per kg.

While some varieties have hit the stands, the harvest from Ramanagar is expected to reach Bengaluru markets only by late April.

The annual Mango Mela at Lalbagh is scheduled for the third week of May.

However, officials warn that the mela might be an expensive affair this time. A smaller-scale mela is slated to take place at Cubbon Park.

Jayaprakash, general manager of Hopcoms, told *DH* that the yield this season was less than 50% of the usual output, leading to a direct spike in rates.

"Compared to last season, prices have jumped by 20 to 25%. As it is still early in the season, we might see a marginal price drop of 5 to 10% after a week," he said.

Rate Card

Variety	Current prices at Hopcoms (Rs/per kg)
Imampasand	270
Malgova	270
Alphonso (Badami)	250
Dasheri	200
Mallika	195
Raspuri	175
Banganapalli	150
Sindhura	140

ಪಿ ಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳ್, ಸದಾಶಿವನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
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web: https://hebbalbanglore.kvs.ac

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SESSION 2026-27
FOR EXISTING VACANCIES / PREPARATION OF PANEL.

Date : 28/04/2026 (Tuesday) & Registration time: 8:00 am to 09:00 am
Venue: PM SHRI K V HEBBAL

Sl. No	Post	Subject
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2	Trained Graduate Teachers	Mathematics/ Social Studies
3	Primary Teachers	All Subjects
4	Special Subject Teachers	Counsellor / Craft Instructor/ Computer Instructor/ ATAL Lab instructor/ Vocational Lab Instructor/ Performing Arts (Music/Dance)
5	Sports Coaches & Yoga Instructor	Yoga & others Games

Candidates must carry original certificates for Verification and a copy of Certificates/ Marks cards, experience certificates, etc.
1. Candidates must register on Samvida Sathi portal of KVS https://samvida-sathi.kvs.gov.in
2. For more details see School website: https: //hebbalbangalore.kvs.ac.in

Sd/-
Principal PM Shri KV Hebbal

Student polls: Govt to follow Lyngdoh Committee recommendations

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government will follow the recommendations made in the Lyngdoh Committee's report on student elections, making changes where necessary to ensure the guidelines are consistent with the prevalent conditions, announced Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar and Minister for Medical Education Dr Sharan Prakash Patil in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The announcement was made at the conclusion of a day-long consultation meeting with stakeholders including representatives of various student bodies. Pointing to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's announcement in the 2026 Budget, representatives of student bodies demanded that student elections be introduced on college campuses forthwith.

The meeting was attended by representatives from NSUI, ABVP, AIDSO, SFI and the student wing of the JD(S). The two ministers lent a patient ear to the suggestions offered by all the stakeholders and assured them of conveying the same to the CM. They further assured those in the meeting that guidelines for student elections would be framed at the earliest.

LIST OF DEMANDS

- 70% seats to be reserved for Kannada-speaking students
- Prescribe a set of eligibility criteria, such as minimum attendance and no backlogs for candidates
- Clearly define role, responsibilities and authority of elected student bodies to ensure their role is not confined to organising college festivals
- Students must be vested with substantive powers, and must be invited to the syndicate meeting of the respective universities

Family dispute: Man kills wife, dies by suicide

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old man allegedly killed his wife before dying by suicide at their residence in RT Nagar on Tuesday night.

The deceased have been identified as David (35) and his wife Sumitra (30). Residents of Gangenahalli, the couple had been married for around 10 years and are survived by two children. David worked as a driver, while Sumitra was employed as a house help. According to a senior police officer, the incident came to light on Wednesday morning when Sumitra's brother, Shivakumar, visited the house and found the bodies. He immediately alerted the police.

Preliminary investigations suggest that David allegedly smothered Sumitra following a late-night quarrel and later hanged himself.

DH
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DR. P. R. SATHYANARAYANA SETTY
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OPTIMISING OFFICE WORK

State bets on AI suite to offset staff crunch, improve services

Some of the services being developed will be hosted on aicell.karnataka.gov.in for public use

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) suite to automate routine office tasks like translations and document management, to boost productivity as around one-third of government jobs lie vacant.

The first phase of the AI Suite will also see the deployment of chatbots on public portals to interact with citizens and "reduce manual workload".

Some of the services being developed as part of the AI Suite will be hosted on aicell.karnataka.gov.in for public use.

"We have already hosted several services. In the coming days, we're developing more services to enhance productivity in the government. The AI Suite will be fully operationalised in 2-3 months," Shreevyas H M, project director for AI and ML at the Centre for e-Governance, told *DH*.

A machine translation software called Kannada Kasturi is ready. It has been developed using 23 million English-Kannada parallel sentences, according to the government. This will allow conversion of English portable document formats (PDF) to Kannada.

The AI suite will have a Writing Assistant, which will help officers prepare letters, procedures and official documents.

Other tools being developed

Speech-to-text, optical character recognition (OCR), live transliteration among other tools are under development. All these tools combined are expected to make work faster in the government, which is notorious for sluggish pace.

For example, issuing one government order, which takes days and typically involves multiple personnel handling numerous files, may become faster.

No pvt services

With the AI suite, departments will no longer need to depend on private commercial services for translations, OCR and other language-related tasks, the govt said.

Karnataka has 2.84 lakh jobs vacant against a strength of 7.76 lakh, leaving the government operating with 64% of its sanctioned workforce.

"What we're doing will help make up for the gap," Shreevyas said when asked about AI disrupting the workforce in government. "We can definitely redeploy existing resources to carry out more productive work instead of doing mundane functions," he said.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, a reformist, offered a sombre view on AI leading to better resource planning in the government.

"Firstly, we've not even scratched the surface when it comes to using AI for people-friendly service delivery. Many services can be automated or rationalised," Gowda said. "However, when accountability mechanisms in government are rather weak, I don't see any resource disruption. All the modest improvements we've achieved haven't resulted in any reassessment of resources," he said.

"In this context, what I can really hope for is better service delivery, if not resource efficiency or redeployment."

TO MANAGE THE MUNDANE

- **Kannada Kasturi** built using 23 million English-Kannada parallel sentences **for translation**
- **Real-time audio conversion** and translation during meetings
- **Chatbot** services on public portals
- **Writing assistant** for officers
- Five unicode **'Smart Nudi'** fonts
- **Optical character recognition** to retrieve text from old documents and records

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Devotees from Atthur and Kodatthur villages engage in the Thootedara Seve (playing with fire to welcome the Goddess after she kills the demon Arunasura), the ritual marking the conclusion of the annual car festival at the Durga Parameshwari temple at Kateel in Dakshina Kannada district in the wee hours of Wednesday. The devotees set fire to bundles of dried coconut fronds, throw them at each other, believing that they will not get hurt in the ritual. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

Council polls: JD(S) upset over BJP announcing nominees

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP's unilateral decision to announce candidates to the three Council seats, to which elections are scheduled later this year has upset its alliance partner JD(S), with the regional party's Karnataka president and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy raising the issue with the saffron party's top brass.

Interacting with reporters in Bengaluru, JD(S) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy said, "(H D) Kumaraswamy has discussed this with the national president of the BJP Nitin Nabin and the party's former president J P Nadda. We are waiting for the BJP's response."

The BJP announced its candidates for the three Council seats – Southeast Graduates' constituency, Northeast Teachers' constituency and West Graduates' constituency – in March, reportedly without either consulting or conferring with JD(S) leaders.

At its core committee meeting held on Wednesday, the JD(S) is learnt to have taken a decision to exert pressure on the state government to hold elections to the municipal corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority in keeping with the Supreme Court's orders.

Silver jubilee meets

It was also decided to organise conventions in other parts of the state to mark the party's silver jubilee, as part of its efforts to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots.

Congress has crossed a 'red line', warn Muslim religious leaders

See 'selective targeting and shrinking space for Muslim leadership'

BENGALURU, DHNS

A group of Muslim religious leaders on Wednesday said the ruling Congress has crossed a "red line" and demanded immediate "reinstatement" of its leaders.

They expressed their resentment over the party expelling MLC Abdul Jabbar and removing MLC Naseer Ahmed as the chief minister's political secretary over alleged "anti-party" activities during the April 9 Davangere South bypolls.

"The action against its Muslim leaders is not an isolated administrative decision but a reflection of a deeper pattern, one that signals selective targeting and shrinking space for Muslim leadership," members of a council of Ulemas, Imams, Khateebs and institutional leaders from across the state alleged during a press meet. Stating Muslims were stakeholders and not spectators, the council members reminded that their mandate was based on trust and a shared vision for inclusive governance.

"Today, the trust has eroded. We demand reinstatement of our leaders and policy correction as the Hijab issue is unresolved and there has been no review of the 4% reservation, cow-slaughter and religious conversion laws," they rued.

Moulana Salauddin said that Congress needs Muslims but not the other way round. They said attempts to divide the community would be resisted and it would rethink its political positioning if there was no corrective action. A state-level Ulemas' conference has been planned in Bengaluru, they added.

Earlier, members of Karnataka State Muslim Organisations' Federation had alleged that the Congress was "indifferent" to the Muslims, though the community had stood by the party. It released copies of their letter sent to the Congress high command.

BJP govts responsible for sorry state of RTCs: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the previous BJP government, blaming it for the current crisis in the state-run transport corporations.

In a strongly worded statement, Reddy accused former chief ministers B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai of "inefficient administration" that allegedly weakened the corporations.

He said the earlier government delayed salaries, failed to clear wage revision dues and allowed arrears to mount, contributing to the present unrest.

In his X post, Reddy alleged that unprecedented strikes took place during the BJP tenure, including a 15-day strike, and that around 3,500 employees were dismissed or suspended with FIRs filed against them.

It further claimed that recruitment and bus fleet expansion had stalled between 2019 and 2023. Hitting back at criticism over delays in wage revision, Reddy pointed out that pay hike due in 2020 was implemented only in March 2023, under the previous regime, calling it a 38-month delay.

Listing the Congress government's measures, he said it had recruited over 10,400 staff, added 7,800 buses, phased out ageing vehicles and refurbished more than 2,000 buses. It also claimed to have cleared Rs 223 crore in dues to retired employees. Additionally, he said the government facilitated a Rs 2,000-crore bank loan to clear pending liabilities, including provident fund and diesel dues, and waived Rs 1,219 crore in motor vehicle taxes over the past two years to ease the financial burden on transport corporations.

It seems I can't even crack jokes, says HM

BENGALURU, PTI: A day after a court ordered registering an FIR against him for his statement during a Kabaddi match that he lost a Rs 500 bet with the deputy commissioner, Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said, "It seems I cannot crack jokes".

He said his utterance during the match was casual and was not meant to promote betting. "I had said so casually during a Kabaddi match. In the countryside, we speak casually sometimes. Of course, it is wrong in the eyes of the law, but what is important is the context in which I had said that," Parameshwara told reporters here. "Had I asked people to bet on the game and promoted betting, that would not be proper," he said.

"But it is a pure lie to say that I, being someone holding an important position, am promoting illegal activities. It all depends on how you perceive it," he said.

The minister said the matter of betting was over then and there itself, once the game was over, but it was raked up after a private individual filed a complaint in the court.

"It appears that I cannot even crack jokes, but I respect the law. When I am holding a portfolio that protects law and order, I have to respect the law. I have now left it to the law to take its course," Parameshwara said. When reporters asked him why he could not explain the context to the court, the minister said he had not received any notice.

"I would have explained to the court not to take the matter seriously had I received a notice. All of a sudden, the order was passed," he said.

The 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court recently directed police to initiate a probe following a private complaint filed by H R Nagabhushan. The court also instructed Kodigehalli police in Tumakuru to conduct a detailed investigation. According to sources, during a state-level pre-university kabaddi tournament in Tumakuru recently, Dakshina Kannada defeated Vijayapura 36-26 in the boys' final.

After presenting the prize, Parameshwara jocularly remarked, "I lost Rs 500. I had placed a bet with the Deputy Commissioner that the Vijayapura team would win."

The remark, though made in a lighter vein, drew criticism, with some questioning the propriety of such statements from a person holding a key position.

Departmental inquiry begins only upon issuance of charge sheet: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

A departmental inquiry can be said to commence only upon issuance of a charge sheet, not by a mere act of suspension or issuance of a show-cause notice, the High Court of Karnataka has said in a recent judgment.

The court said this while revoking the suspension of a Senior Assistant with the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).

Shankar Yamanappa Talawar, who joined the KIADB as a stenographer in 2003, was transferred in December 2022 to the office of the Executive Engineer, Davangere Zonal Office. He could not report immediately as he suffered a cardiac arrest.

On December 19, 2022, he was suspended on allegations of financial irregularities during his tenure at Dharwad, along with other officials, in payment of compensation to certain land losers amounting to Rs 20 crore. Since no charge sheet was issued, despite passage of six months, the petitioner submitted a representation in June 2023, seeking revocation of suspension. Even after two years, no charge sheet was issued and the petitioner was continued under suspension.

After he moved the high court, the KIADB initiated a departmental inquiry and issued a show-cause notice-cum-charge sheet, alleging he had a role to play in the payment of Rs 80.04-lakh compensation.

The petitioner contended that continuation of suspension without adherence to Rule 10(5)(b) of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, Rule 10(5) is illegal. On the other hand, the KIADB submitted that amended Rule 10 is indicative that it comes into operation only if enquiry is not commenced against the delinquent government servant.

After perusing the provision, Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that Rule 10(5) was substituted by introducing a deeming clause in terms of a notification in October 2020. It stipulates that suspension shall stand automatically revoked in the absence of a charge sheet within six months of suspension. The court further observed that the rule was amended in the light of the Supreme Court judgment in the Ajay Kumar Choudhary case. "From the language of the amended provision, a principle emerges with unmistakable clarity, the continuance of suspension beyond 6 months is not to be presumed or prolonged by inertia. It demands an active, reasoned decision by the Competent Authority. In its absence, the law itself intervenes, dissolving the suspension and resorting to the employee's right to reinstatement, albeit, at a different posting," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further stated: "A direction must ensue, to revoke the order of suspension and grant appropriate posting to the petitioner, in accordance with law. As a consequence thereof, the petitioner becomes entitled to the benefits that would flow from the aforesaid direction. The benefits would be, all consequential benefits – service benefits, from the date of expiry of 6 months of the order of suspension."

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13 companies vie for more incentives

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Cabinet sub-committee, headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, discussed additional incentives for 13 companies that are planning major investments in Karnataka.

This Cabinet sub-committee deals with providing incentives to companies based on their requests.

According to sources, the sub-committee asked officials to negotiate with each company to ensure a "win-win" situation in which the government does not taken on a big burden.

"Some companies have sought additional incentives of up to 40%. Officials have been asked to see if this can be brought down to 35% or 20-25% in some cases. However, none of these projects were rejected keeping in mind the benefits the investments will bring to the state," a person with knowledge of the matter said.

It is also said that Siddaramaiah and his Deputy D K Shivakumar stressed on the need to ensure that these companies prioritise jobs for Kannadigas.

Govt issues order to drop stadium project on T N Pur silk yarn unit land

Soft water of Kapila crucial for high quality raw silk yarn: KSIC MD

The KSIC raw silk reeling unit in T Narsipur of Mysuru district. DH PHOTO

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

At last, the much-awaited government order (GO) has been issued, to drop acquisition of the 5-acre land of the T Narsipur raw silk reeling unit of KSIC, for a proposed stadium.

Principal Secretary of Department of Horticulture and Sericulture N Pramila has issued the GO, withdrawing the previous order, dated July 14, 2025, to hand over the land in survey nos 22/1A, 22/2, 23/1D, 23/2 at Bhyrapura of T Narsipur taluk of Mysuru district to the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) for free for the proposed stadium to be built at a cost of Rs 6 crore.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the construction of stadium in the 2024-25 state budget.

KSIC (Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited) Managing Director Zehera Naseem informed this to *DH*.

KSIC T Narsipur unit General Manager S K Manjula said they would now initiate a process with the Mysuru district administration, to get the land records formally transferred back from DYES to KSIC.

Deccan Herald was the first newspaper to report how the KSIC's mother unit and the Mysore Silk brand itself would be under threat, if the proposed stadium came up.

According to the GO, the technical committee, led by Mysuru DC G Lakshmikanth Reddy, along with MLC S Yathindra, visited the T Narsipur unit on March 5.

Zehera and Manjula gave them a report on how critical that land was for KSIC's survival and expansion. The technical committee felt that the 5-acre land was not technically feasible for the construction of the stadium.

With the raw silk yarn produced here, the weaving units at Channapatna and Mysuru produce the world famous Mysore Silk sarees, Zehera had said in a letter to the government.

She had pointed out that the unit required 10 lakh litres of the Kapila river water per day, as they were installing four more automatic reeling machines.

The soft water of the river was crucial for the high quality soft raw silk yarn, she said.

The gradient for the underground pipeline which pumps this water from the river to KSIC was on the land proposed for the stadium, her letter said.

SC to consider if HC bench only to hear appeals against jail term exceeding 14 yrs

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has decided to examine a plea whether the Karnataka High Court's division bench should only consider appeals against jail terms exceeding 14 years' sentence under its rules.

A bench of Justices K V Vishwanathan and Vipul M Pancholi issued notice to the Attorney General for India for rendering assistance to the court.

Senior advocate A Sirajudeen for the appellant-convict, Barkath, raised the important issue, contending that in many High Courts, appeals where the sentence imposed by the trial court is in excess of 10 years are heard by the division bench.

He said while the Trial Court under Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 imposed a sentence of 20 years and no separate sentence was imposed under Section 376-AB of the Indian Penal Code, the High Court, while noticing that the Pocso Amendments came in 2019, directed that the sentence of 20 years will be for the offence under Section 376-AB of IPC and not for the Pocso offence.

He submitted that the High Court's order was passed by a Single Judge of the High Court.

The counsel pointed out that Section 5 of the Karnataka High Court Act of 1961, read with Section 10 of the said Act, would indicate that the cases where the accused have been sentenced to a fixed term of 20 years should have been heard by a division bench.

He further submitted that under Section 5 of the Act, life appeals are heard by a division bench.

"There is no express prescription for a fixed term sentence as to what coram will hear the appeal," he said.

Though Section 5 of the Act said that all other appeals would be heard by the single judge, the amendment imposing a fixed term is relatively a new concept post 2012, he pointed out.

He also submitted that the interest of justice required that if the appeals arising out of the cases where a life sentence is imposed are heard by a division bench, it is only prudent that the appeals where fixed term in excess of 14 years are imposed are also heard by a division bench.

Inquiry sought into bear death in Koratagere

BENGALURU, DHNS: The death of a bear during a rescue operation at a village in Koratagere taluk of Tumakuru district has put the spotlight on animal safety in a rescue operation.

Wildlife activist Nagaraj Koove said that the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Forest Department was not followed during the operation.

"As per the SOP, police should have been requested to control the crowds during the rescue operation. Barricades should have been erected and safety measures should have been taken. This stressed the bear," he said.

He said when the animal ran to a shed, forest personnel closed the door from the outside around 1 pm. It was darted at 3.51 pm and found dead later. Alleging lack of planning and preparation, the activist urged Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre to order an inquiry and to ensure that the SOP is followed in future operations.

VP AT CUK CONVOCATION

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan presents gold medals to a student at the convocation of the Central University of Karnataka at Kadaganchi in Aland taluk in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. Governor-Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Vice Chancellor Battu Satyanarayana and Examination Controller Prof Bharath Kumar are seen. DH PHOTO

Two women die in lightning strikes in Kalyana Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two women died in lightning strikes as several parts of Kalyana Karnataka received rain, coupled with thunder and lightning, since Tuesday night.

Akshatha (18), a native of Hale Jogikallu in Sandur taluk of Ballari district, was killed in a lightning strike on Wednesday. Many parts of the taluk received thundershowers. Gusty winds brought down a banana plantation cultivated on one acre at Daulatpur. Tekkalakote town also received rain accompanied by thunder and lightning.

A 40-year-old woman was struck dead by lightning at Yarajanti village near Hatti Gold Mines in Raichur district. The incident occurred when Durgumma Sabayya was wrapping the heaps of fodder with a tarpaulin sheet.

Several parts of Kittur Karnataka, including Hubballi-Dharwad, also witnessed thundershowers. The evening showers brought some respite from the scorching heat in the twin cities.

Mangaluru city and parts of Dakshina Kannada district experienced thundershowers in the small hours of Wednesday. Five cars parked near the Ayyappa Swamy temple at Attavar in the city were damaged after a portion of the compound wall collapsed on them. Tiled roofs of two houses at Chammara Galli on Ratha Beedi were damaged after a full-grown peepal tree fell on them. Fortunately, all six occupants of the houses escaped unhurt. Two houses were damaged in the thunderstorm in Ullal taluk, according to district administration.

Kalyana Karnataka districts continued to reel under sweltering heat with temperatures going past 40 degrees Celsius. Koppal town recorded the highest maximum temperature in the state on Wednesday at 42.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Kalaburagi, which registered 40.2 degrees Celsius. Interestingly, maximum temperatures in Raichur, Ballari and Bidar remained below 40 degrees Celsius.

3 booked for abusing KRV chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police in western Bengaluru have registered a case against three people for allegedly abusing Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) state president TA Narayana Gowda.

Annapoorneshwari Nagar police registered the FIR on April 18, naming Mahesh Vikram Hegde, Muralidhar KB Murali and Subhas Mali. Hegde runs the online portal 'Postcard News'.

Police first registered a non-cognisable report (NCR) following a complaint by KRV leader Karthik PN, and later converted it into an FIR following court orders.

Karthik alleged the three posted abusive messages and threats against Gowda on Facebook.

Stir forces revocation of order to shift Dharwad AIR news unit to Bengaluru

'Dharwad Akashvani N-K region's voice, cultural identity'

DHARWAD, DHNS

Akashvani deputy director general (policy) Jitendra Singh Katara has withdrawn an order issued regarding the temporary shifting of workload from the regional news unit (RNU) of Dharwad to the RNU of Bengaluru with immediate effect.

The order, issued on April 17, regarding the temporary shifting of Dharwad RNU had drawn criticism from various sections of society.

Opposing the order, the Karnataka Navnirman Sena (KNS) district unit had staged a protest in front of the All India Radio station here. The protesters had demanded that the decision to shift the RNU should be dropped.

They had said the Dharwad Akashvani had served as the voice of the north Karnataka region for decades, and shifting its news division would damage the region's cultural identity. They had warned of intensifying the agitation if the order was not revoked.

A meeting held at the Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha in Dharwad on Tuesday had decided on staging a protest on April 23, demanding the withdrawal of the order to relocate the RNU of Dharwad Akashvani.

It was decided to hold a protest march from the Vidyavardhaka Sangha premises to the Akashvani Dharwad station on April 23, followed by a sit-in demonstration in front of the station.

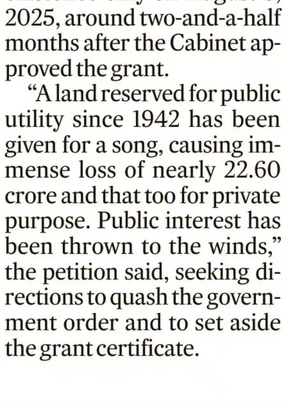
The meeting had also resolved to submit memoranda to MPs and MLAs from districts in North Karnataka, urging them to exert pressure on the Union government to revoke the order.

Participants in the meeting said Akashvani Dharwad was a symbol of the identity of this region and carried distinct regional characteristics. Akashvani's news broadcasts remain vital for rural areas.

C U Bellakki, Mahadev Horatti, Satish Parvatikar, Shivashankar Hiremath, Uday Yandigeri, K H Nayak, Prakash Sunagar, M M Chikkamath, Prema Naduvinamani, Ninganna Kunti, Veeranna Pattar, Dr Lingaraj Angadi, S M Shivaprasad and Dr Lohith Naikar and C S Patil spoke on the occasion.

Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha president Chandrakant Bellad, vice-president Sanjeev Kulkarni and others were present.

PIL challenges grant of 2 acres to Cong Bhavan in Tumakuru at 5% of guidance value



BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered notices to the state government and the Tumakuru deputy commissioner in PIL petition challenging allotment of two acres of land in Tumakuru in favour of Congress Bhavan Trust.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha also ordered a notice to the Tumakuru City Corporation and posted the matter to August 13 for further hearing.

The petition was filed by N N Gopalakrishna, a businessman from Tumakuru.

According to the petitioner, the land in survey numbers 87/1 and 87/2 at Maralur village, measuring two acres each, was acquired in 1942 in favour of Tumkur Town Municipality by the then Maharaja of Mysore.

The petitioner said that on July 11, 2023, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and a few office-bearers of the Congress party registered 'Rajiv Gandhi Urban and Rural Development Trust'.

Within a month, a representation was submitted seeking grant of one acre of land in survey number 87. Though the request was for one acre, the deputy commissioner wrote to the Tumakuru Corporation commissioner to examine whether two acres can be granted to the Trust.

The petition stated that the Corporation commissioner cited guidelines issued in 2003 and opined that the land can be alienated in favour of the Trust only by way of a public auction or at current market rate as per the guidance value.

After several correspondences on the subject, in the Cabinet meeting held on May 22, 2025, the chief minister approved the grant of two acres, as against the original request of one acre, at 5% of the guidance rate to Congress Bhavan Trust and not to the applicant Rajiv Gandhi Urban and Rural Development Trust, the petition said.

Pursuant to the Cabinet decision, a government order was issued on May 27, 2025, granting two acres of land and on August 13, 2025, grant certificate was registered.

The petitioner submitted that as per the registered deed, the Trust had come into existence only on August 8, 2025, around two-and-a-half months after the Cabinet approved the grant.

"A land reserved for public utility since 1942 has been given for a song, causing immense loss of nearly 22.60 crore and that too for private purpose. Public interest has been thrown to the winds," the petition said, seeking directions to quash the government order and to set aside the grant certificate.

Industries say sanitary charges inflating water bills

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ramprasath Manohar V.

Industrialists in the city have alleged that their water bills have been inflated over the past three to four months, largely due to a sharp rise in sanitary charges.

According to Danappa DP, president of the Peenya Industries Association, many industries have been receiving higher bills with increased sanitary charges.

"We are not sure when the charges were revised. It is not uniform either. Many have been receiving higher bills for the last three months, while others have seen increases in the past one or two months," he said.

Dayal of Goodwill Industries said he was shocked to see Rs 5,000 levied as sanitary charges in his bill this month, compared to Rs 650 until last month.

"Earlier, it was calculated based on our water consumption. Now it is a flat charge, and in today's bill, I was surprised to see it increased to Rs 5,000. We hardly produce any sewage; we only have a few restrooms for staff. Such high charges are not acceptable," he said.

'Financial burden'

Industrialists said the increase would add to their financial burden at a time when industries are already under pressure due to rising power tariffs, export duties, and the conflict in West Asia.

Sources in the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), however, said the charges were revised during the last tariff update in April 2025 and are only now being implemented.

A sanitary charge of Rs 5,000 has been fixed for industries with a built-up area exceeding 1,000 sqm, sources said.

"The revision was initially opposed, and the board later decided to reduce it to Rs 2,500. However, the formal order reflecting this change has not yet been issued, and therefore, industries have received higher bills," sources added.

Ramprasath Manohar V, Chairman of BWSSB, said he would verify the issue and examine what corrective action can be taken.

Man held for setting wife ablaze over delay in dressing

BELAGAVI, DHNS: A 32-year-old woman sustained burn injuries after her husband allegedly set her nightgown on fire following an argument over the delay in getting ready for a function in Nandgad village of Khanapur taluk.

The injured, Manjula Patil, was initially admitted to the district hospital and later shifted to a facility in Goa. Police said her injuries are not life-threatening.

According to Superintendent of Police K Ramarajan, there were frequent quarrels between Manjula and her husband, Krishnaji Patil. He has been arrested.

The couple, married for eight years and parents of two children, had recently moved from Hattarwat village. The altercation occurred on Sunday when Krishnaji reportedly asked Manjula to wear a saree to attend a function. As she took time to get ready, an argument broke out.

Police said the accused allegedly poured a flammable substance on Manjula and attempted to set her on fire. The nightgown she was wearing caught fire on the third attempt.

During the investigation, it emerged that the accused had previously undergone surgery for a brain tumour and was facing certain health issues, which police said would be taken into consideration. A case has been registered at Nandgad police station.

Kingpin of fake Input Tax Credit generation cartel held

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Commercial Taxes Department has arrested the alleged kingpin of the fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) generation cartel and unearthed the fraud amounting to Rs 410 crore.

"In continuation of an earlier case involving fake invoicing activities detected across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, further investigation has now revealed that Mohammed Tauqeer alias Mohammad and Shaik Jakeer Hussain alias Basha are the principal masterminds operating behind the scenes. The duo had floated multiple bogus business entities and were systematically issuing fake tax invoices without actual supply of goods, thereby generating and passing fraudulent ITC to entities in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu," the department said.

On Wednesday, officials from Enforcement Wing (South Zone) arrested Tauqeer, 42, one of the alleged masterminds, when he attempted to abscond. "He has been arrested for his active role in floating bogus firms and facilitating large-scale fake ITC transactions. The accused has been produced before the Special Court for Economic Offences, Bengaluru, which has remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days. Efforts are underway to trace and secure the presence of the absconding accused Shaik Jakeer Hussain alias Basha through appropriate legal channels," the department said.

The investigation revealed that the suspects routed such fake ITC to various entities, including previously arrested operatives, who, in turn, passed on the same to work with contractors and traders for offsetting their tax liabilities. This mechanism enabled beneficiaries to discharge tax liabilities through ineligible ITC instead of cash payments, causing significant loss to the exchequer, the department said.

"The financial magnitude attributable to this network is at Rs 410 crore of fraudulent transactions involving wrongful ITC of Rs 102.5 crore. The modus operandi adopted by the accused reflects a well-structured and evolving pattern, involving frequent creation and cancellation of GST registrations within short durations, continuous change of mobile numbers and bank accounts, operation through multiple-layered entities, and functioning in isolated silos to evade detection," the department said.

The department said that the suspects were originally from Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor. However, Tauqeer lived in Bengaluru, while Hussain continued the operations from Andhra Pradesh. Their anticipatory bail application was also rejected recently. Despite sustained efforts over the past month, Hussain managed to flee overseas and remained absconding.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast April 23: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.6	20.2	00
Bidar	38.2	21	12
Vijayapura	38	21	00
Dharwad	35.2	20	00
Haveri	35.2	22.4	00
Kalaburagi	39.9	23.6	3.3
Raichur	39	23	0.8
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34	25	00
Karwar	37	26.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	35	24.1	11.7

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32.5	21.3	0.5
Bengaluru	36.5	23.7	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	36.9	22.3	00
Davangere	37.8	22	00
Hassan	NA	NA	00
Mysuru	36.6	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	37	19	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	38.8	21.6	00
Kolkata	37.4	28.4	00
Mumbai	34.9	24.9	00
Chennai	38.6	27.5	00
Pune	39.6	23.7	00
Hyderabad	38.4	27.4	00
Th'puram	35.6	24.1	06

State govt moves apex court seeking ban on bike taxis

Bike taxis, from Page 1

While the CM had indicated that the state was moving towards framing a policy to allow bike taxis in line with judicial directions, while balancing safety, legality and employment concerns, the SLP argues against recognising motorcycles as contract carriages and defends the state's discretion to deny permits.

Details shared by the Transport Department regarding the grounds on which the SLP has been filed highlight that the judgment fundamentally misinterprets the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and undermines the state's regulatory authority.

At the core of the state's case is the claim that granting permits for contract carriages, such as taxis, is not a right but a matter of discretion. Under sections 66, 74, and 80, transport authorities can refuse or condition permits, especially where safety and regulatory gaps exist, stated the document. The government argues that the high court wrongly treated permit issuance, ignoring this discretion.

A key contention is that motorcycles are not legally designed or classified as transport vehicles for carrying passengers for hire. The act distinguishes between vehicle types based on their construction and intended use.

"Categories like 'motor cabs' and 'contract carriages' are meant for commercial passenger transport, whereas motorcycles are defined primarily for personal use," the transport official argued, adding that simply being able to carry a pillion rider does not qualify a motorcycle as a passenger transport vehicle in law.

The SLP also highlights the absence of a regulatory framework for bike taxis in Karnataka.

US tourist sexually assaulted in Kodagu homestay, 2 arrested

US tourist, from Page 1

He said further action will be taken as per law.

"Homestays must have proper licensing. We have already laid down SOPs for homestays. If norms are violated, legal action must be taken," he told reporters. The minister said such incidents send a poor message about the state or society.

"Especially when outsiders or foreigners are involved, what kind of message goes out about our society and our country? That is why strict action is necessary, and we are taking it. It appears that there were attempts at a cover-up," he added.

Kodagu District-in-charge Minister N S Boseraju contacted the SP and gathered details about the incident.

He directed the officer to conduct an in depth investigation and submit a report at the earliest.

The police are yet to disclose the suspects' identities.

Virajpet MLA A S Ponnanna said: "This has hurt us. We did not see such incidents happen in Kodagu. The police have decided to investigate the functioning of homestays. The woman requested that the case details should be made public after she left. She didn't want to be inconvenienced by media queries." Reacting to the incident, MLC C T Ravi posted on 'X': "This is not just an attack on an individual, but an attack on our nation's values."

Iran seizes 2 ships as Trump...

Iran, From Page 1

It alleged that the Francesca was linked to Israel while the Epaminodas lacked "the necessary permits" and had been "tampering with navigation systems".

Vessel-tracking data showed Epaminondas was signalling Mundra port in Gujarat as its destination.

In a separate incident, a cargo ship eight nautical miles west of Iran was fired upon and stopped in the water, UKMTO said. Iranian news agency Tasnim said the ship had "ignored warnings from Iran's armed forces". British maritime security firm Vanguard Tech identified it as the Panama-flagged container ship Euphoria, which was headed to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

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CORRIGENDUM

ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDEM for sale of INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AT DABASPETE, BENGALURU RURAL (Plot No.13, Averahalli Indl. Area) of M/s Evegreen published in newspaper on 10.04.2026. Purchasers are instructed to read and note the following corrections

Description	As existing	As corrected
RESERVE PRICE	Rs. 647.60 lakhs	Rs. 140.00 lakhs
EMD AMOUNT	Rs. 64.76 lakhs	Rs. 14.00 lakhs
e-auction commence from	13.05.2026	24.05.2026
e-auction ends on	16.05.2026	27.05.2026

All other terms and conditions of the publication on 10.04.2026 remains unchanged and effective

Date: 23.04.2026 **Sd/-**
Place: Bengaluru **Deputy General Manager**

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal) 2nd Call

IFT No. 06/2026-27 **Date: 21.04.2026**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 and above register contractor can apply under head of account 3054-04-337-1-10-200-Major District and Other road maintenance for work of Repairs to Road from SH-65 via Umblebailu, Kaidottalu, Siddamaji Hosuru, Lingapura connecting SH-65 from 4.00 to 6.00 km in Shivamogga Taluk (PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30718) and Special repair work of road joining SH-68 to SH-57 Via Kadadakatte, Vishveshwaranagara, Siriyuru, Hagalamane, Amrutapura from ch 10.00km to 11.20 km in Bhadravathi taluk (INDENT No.30092) for Amount put to tender Maximum is **Rs.126.98 Lakhs,** Amount put to tender Minimum is **Rs.119.62 Lakhs** and Maximum EMD amount is **Rs.1.905 Lakhs,** Minimum EMD amount is **Rs.1.794 Lakhs.** Time allowed for completion of work is 09 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from **21-04-2026 to 28-04-2026** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 28-04-2026 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opened on **29-04-2026 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **30-04-2026** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,
DIPR/SMG/No. 113-04/Zenkar/2026-27 **Special Division, Shivamogga**

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಅನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560081
ಫೋನ್: 080–27832411, E-Mail: ka.chandapura.tmc@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಚಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಕೆಪಿಪಿ/ಮ.ಟೆಂ/07/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.04.2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳಯ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. (As Per Government order No.FD 4 PCL 2008, Bangalore, dated:14.10.2008 and Government Order No. FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 10/10/2027 and A&B Value Considered Upto 2024-25)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53968/CALL-2 (Reserve For CAT-I)	30.00
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54053/ CALL-2	30.00
3	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53975/CALL-2 (Reserve For ST)	30.00
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53979/CALL-2	30.00
5	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53985/CALL-2 (Reserve For SC)	10.00
6	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54025/CALL-2	29.90
7	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT53971/CALL-2 (Reserve For CAT-II(A)	28.50
8	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54063/CALL-2 (Reserve For SC)	29.90
9	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54065/CALL-2 (Reserve For ST)	30.00
10	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54067/ CALL-2	11.00
11	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54112/ CALL-2	29.90
12	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54116/ CALL-2	14.00
13	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54121/ CALL-2	4.00
14	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54061/CALL-2 (Reserve For SC)	19.00

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 06.05.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080–27832411 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/297/2026–27 **ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ**

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/SC(F)/Wind Tariff/2025/1894 Date: 21.04.2026

NOTICE

Sub: Discussion Paper on "The Determination of Generic Ceiling Tariff for Wind Power Projects for the purpose of Bidding for the Period FY 2026-27 to FY 2028-29" - Public hearing - reg.

The Commission has issued a Discussion Paper on **"The Determination of Generic Ceiling Tariff for Wind Power Projects for the purpose of Bidding for the Period FY 2026-27 to FY 2028-29"** inviting comments / objections / suggestions.

The Commission has decided to hold a Public Hearing on the matter on **28.04.2026 at 3:00 pm** in the Commission's Court Hall. Interested persons / stakeholders may participate in the above hearing and submit their views. The Discussion Paper is made available on the Commission's website: **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/YC/303/2026-27 For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

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ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION RAICHUR
No:ACF/SFDR/KPPP.Proc.Tender/CR- /2026-27 Date: 22-04-2026

e-Tender Notification

(ಮೊದಲನೇಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ)

This is to inform to the the public that, for the Financial Year 2026-27. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur has invited Tender for Forest Works through e-Procurement (Website Link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) two cover system under KFDF Flixi Fund-132, RSP-139, CMC & KFDF Flixi Fund (KKRDB) Schemes. During 2026-27 Registered Forest Contractors are eligible for Tender Works. Tender From 22-04-2026 to 02-05-2026 & 04-05-2026 Technical Bids and 05-05-2026 Financial Bid Opening.

For More Details available on the notice board. O/o Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Social Forestry Division, Raichur
DIP/RCR/34/KSMC&A/37/2026-27

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038. Ph No.: 080-25196124 | e-mail: info@kuidfc.com, Website:www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/AHR/NB/HVAC -CAMC/2025-26 Date: 22.04.2026

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-3)
(Through KPP Portal only)

KUIDFC invites tender for following service from the eligible bidders. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs
1	Providing Comprehensive AMC HVAC (Heat Ventilation and Air – Conditioning) System for 3 years at Nagarabhivruddhi Bavana KUIDFC.	50,000/-

Tender Publish Date: 22.04.2026. Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **06.05.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **13.05.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **15.05.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **20.05.2026 Time: 11.00 AM.** Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager (ADMN)
DIPR/CP/JA/290/2026-27 **KUIDFC-Bengaluru.**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1,
Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru – 560 092

No.: BNCC/EE(QA/QC)/TEND/01/26-27 Date: 22.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal)

Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Division, Zone-1, BNCC invites Request for Proposal from interested persons / firms those **who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)** for the below work through KPP Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Improvements to roads and drains at Janakiram Layout "A" and "B" block in Ward No-83, Subbaiahanapalya (Call-2). **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.61, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,000/-.**
2	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Comprehensive development of roads and drains at Andhra Colony Ward No -81 and Pillareddy Nagar near Ambedkar Bhavan in Ward No-82 Banasawadi (Call-2). **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.61, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,000/-.**
3	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Additional and Balance Constructions to Multispecialty Hospital in Ward No-24, HBR Layout (Call-2). **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 500.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.17, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,500/-.**
4	**Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for Balance work of under constructing BBMP Indoor Stadium at MCECHS Layout, Byatarayanapura Constituency. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 500.00, PMC Amount Reserved (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Pre-bid Meeting: **30.04.2026** at **11:30 a.m.** in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru–560 092. **(3)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **06.05.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical bid: **07.05.2026** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, QA/QC Division, Zone-1, BNCC

ಕ್ರಾಂತಿವೀರ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
#337, ಮೂರನೆ ಮಹಡಿ, ಸುವರ್ಣಸೌಧ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ–590020.
E-mail: kranthiveerarayanna@gmail.com
No 01/KVSRKDA/Tender-01/A/2026-27 DATE: 21-04-20206

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna Kshetra Development Authority (KSRKDA) Belagavi invited "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and the Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website **(http://kpp.karnataka.gov.in)** for providing following services.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Particulars	Last Date for Submission of Tender
1	2	3	4
1	KVSRK/2025-26/ SE0005/CALL-2	Providing operation and Maintenance services for Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Veerabhoomi Museum at Nandagad village Khanapur Taluk, Belagavi District. Karnataka	27/04/2026 05.00 PM

Sd/-
Commissioner Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna Kshetra Development Authority, Belagavi
DIPR/137/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Pareeksha Bhavana, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bengaluru- 560 056

No. EX-III/Hiring/Vehicle/2026-27 Date: 17.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

Bangalore University invites quotations in two cover systems i.e. Technical & Financial from companies/firms towards supply of Hiring of vehicles towards preparatory and during the course of examination related works for the Undergraduate/ Postgraduate examinations for the academic year 2026-27 to the Examination Branch, Bangalore University, Bengaluru.

The Specification, terms and conditions and Technical Bid from may be downloaded from the University's website bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in and the Technical and Financial bids should be submitted to the Superintendent, Examination Branch-III, Pareekshabhavana, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru 560056, within 7 days of publication of this notification. For any clarification/queries, contact Superintendent, Examination Branch-III on 080-22961210 or e-mail: regevalex3@bub.ernet.in.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/291/AKAR/2026-27 **Registrar Evaluation**

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1&2/Tender/2026-27/ 1019 Date: 21-04-2026

KPP -Procurement Tender Details

1) Name of Works : As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD:AS mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-1, KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only : **27-04-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours** Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time for KW-4 Only : Office of the, Ex.Engr. MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on **24-04-2026 at 11:00 AM,** 7) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only : **29-04-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 8) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-1, KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only : **01-05-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 9) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-1, KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only : **04-05-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080 , 11) Website details : KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Bidar/19/KSMC&A/2026-27 **MI & GWD Division, Bidar**

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-561 203, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-29562046
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/102/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.04.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು)	ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾದ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1.	SKY LINE INFRA Represented by its Managing Partner Sri R. SRIRAMA S/o Rangappa	ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ತೂಬಗೆರೆ	ನರಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ	1/1	1–35	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
		ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ತೂಬಗೆರೆ	ನರಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ	2	2–28	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಷರಾ: ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.KMP/HS/SWM/2026-27 Date : 22.04.2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

Sub : Kalaburagi City Corporation have called the below Tenders in KPPP portal.
1) Work Details: 1. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 1 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27 **Indent No. DMA/2026-27/SE7626 EMD Rs. 6,73,198/-**
2. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 2 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27 **Indent No.DMA/2026-27/SE7644 EMD.Rs. 6,46,881/-**
3. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 3 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27 **Indent No.DMA/2026-27/SE7645 EMD. Rs. 6,47,486/-**
4. Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management of Other Vehicles of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2026-27 **Indent No. DMA/2026-27/SE7647 EMD. Rs. 4,69,434/-**
2) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications Date : **08.05.2026 Time : 4.00pm,** 3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date : **11.05.2026 Time : 4.30pm,** 4) Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date : **12.05.2026 Time : 4.35pm,** 5) Last Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date : **14.05.2026 Time : 11.00am,** 6) Pre Bid Meeting details Date : **04.05.2026 Timing : 11.00 am** Place : Room No. 44, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Tank Bound Road, Jagat Kalaburagi-585101, 7) Address to contact for more details: Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi, 8) Website details: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer (Env.)
DIPR/Kalaburagi/63/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi,**

After May 4, we will prepare for the next battle to dislodge the BJP from Delhi
Political Theatre
Under the rules of Didi and (previous) Communists, the entire city has today been turned into a kind of a city of slums

Poll Seizures

Election-time **seizures** surpass **Rs 1,000 crore-mark** in **Tamil Nadu** and **West Bengal**

State	West Bengal	Tamil Nadu	Total
Cash (In Rs Cr)	27.48	100.19	127.67
Liquor (in Litres)	39,31,463	1,17,713	40,49,176
Liquor Value (In Rs Cr)	102.45	3.85	106.3
Drugs Value (In Rs Cr)	108.11	76.72 cr	184.83
Precious Metal Value (In Rs Cr)	55.88	159.31	215.19
Freebies Others (In Rs Cr)	178.83	259.14	437.97
Total (In Rs Cr)	**472.89**	**599.24**	**1,072.13**

2,728 in West Bengal, **2,283** in Tamil Nadu — **Flying Squad Teams** (FSTs) deployed to attend complaints within **100 minutes**

3,142 in West Bengal, **2,221** in Tamil Nadu — **Static Surveillance Teams** (SSTs) deployed for setting up surprise '**nakas**' at different locations

Source: Election Commission of India

Meet the leader

Rekha Patra
BJP
Hingalganj

Rekha Patra emerged as a known face of the BJP during the Sandeshkhali protests, which the party sought to highlight as an issue of alleged atrocities against women and local governance failures.

A homemaker, Patra rose to prominence during the protests against TMC strongman Sheikh Shahjahan, with the BJP projecting her as a victim who turned into a voice of resistance against what it described as local-level misgovernance.

The BJP fielded Patra as its candidate from the Basirhat Lok Sabha constituency in 2024.

The party mounted an aggressive campaign around the issue, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing her as 'Shakti Swaroopa', or the embodiment of feminine strength.

She lost to the Trinamool Congress candidate by a significant margin. Despite the defeat, she continues to feature in the BJP'S political messaging around the Sandeshkhali issue as the party prepares for the assembly elections.

Trivia

The Congress may have drawn a blank in the 2021 Assembly polls, but in West Bengal's first elections in 1952, the grand old party dominated the political landscape, winning 150 of 238 seats. The Communists were a distant second with 28 seats, followed by the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (15) and the Forward Bloc (Marxist) (11). The RSP secured nine seats, while the Hindu Mahasabha won four. The All India Gorkha League and the Forward Bloc (Ruikar) won two seats each, and Independents accounted for 16 seats.

'DMK only party with spine to question centralisation of power'

DMK deputy general secretary and Parliamentary Party leader **Kanimozhi Karunanidhi** has emerged as one of the key campaigners for the party ahead of the April 23 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. She has travelled across the state campaigning for candidates of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA).

In an interview with *DH*'s **E T B Sivapriyan**, Kanimozhi spoke about TN's two-language policy, the DMK's anti-BJP stand, welfare measures, and the Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin framing the polls as a TN-versus-Delhi fight. Excerpts:

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

The CM has projected the polls fight as one between TN and Delhi. Is it because the anti-BJP stand fetches votes, or does the party feel that the Union government is doing injustice to the state?
This is not vote-bank politics; it is an existential defence of our state's rights. Our CM has rightly framed this as "TN vs Delhi". We must vanquish the political forces trying to destroy Tamil culture.

The DMK is the only party with the spine to consistently question the Union government's centralisation of power and diminishing states' rights. Whether it is the denial of disaster relief, GST compensation delays, or the continuous imposition of Hindi, the injustice is structural. We are fighting to protect our federal identity.

The AIADMK leads the NDA in TN, but the DMK's attacks seem to be focused on the BJP. Do you think AIADMK is declining? If so, why?
Our primary ideological battle is against the BJP's centralising, right-wing policies, which threaten India's secular and pluralistic fabric. The AIADMK has compromised on the Dravidian movement's core principles by acting as an enabler for the NDA. When a regional party surrenders to a national power, its decline is inevitable.

There is a view that being friendly with the BJP will ensure more funds for the state, and that the DMK government's confrontational attitude has made things worse. Your opinion?
Demanding what rightfully belongs to the people of TN is not a "confrontational attitude" but our constitutional duty. We believe that the nation's optimum welfare can be achieved only when the Union and states work together. Subservience should never be the prerequisite for a state to receive its fair share of tax revenues. The AIADMK's compliance did not bring genuine financial independence; it only compromised our state's rights.

Recently, the CBSE made the three-language policy compulsory from Std VI. Why do you think that the Union Government continues to insist on the three-language formula?
Our two-language policy is non-negotiable. The continuous insistence on a three-language formula is fundamentally an "imposition of power" by the Union government to enforce Hindi and marginalise regional linguistic identities. This is exactly why TN has successfully resisted initiatives to bring Hindi. Our stand remains absolute: We will not let systemic homogenisation erase our identity.

TN Opposition parties allege that the DMK government has failed in protecting women. How do you respond to such criticism?
The Vilathikulam tragedy was deeply painful, and I visited the bereaved family. We immediately formed 10 special police teams to conduct an intensive investigation, and the culprit was apprehended. We rely on scientific investigation, not political theatrics, and we have assured the public that the government will not shield anyone involved.

You headed the DMK's manifesto committee. The Rs 8,000 coupon for non-taxpaying families is being billed as a promise that will further burden the exchequer. Why is TN focusing on such promises when the state has, all along, focused on investments in the future, like midday meals?
I reject the notion that these are "consumerist" promises. The Rs 8,000 coupon scheme for non-taxpaying women to buy household appliances like washing machines or microwaves is designed to alleviate the uncompensated, crushing burden of domestic labour. With household work mechanised, women get the temporal freedom to pursue education and productive, income-generating activities. This is a profound investment in gender equity, not a freebie.

Bengal phase 1 begins; only 139 regain voting rights

Around 3.60 cr voters to decide fate of 1,478 candidates

KOLKATA, DHNS

People wait for a ride as they prepare to leave for their hometowns, in Uttar Dinajpur, on Wednesday. PTI

The first phase of polling for the West Bengal Assembly elections will take place on Thursday, with a large number of people barred from participating in the festival of democracy, as the appellate tribunals have so far restored voting rights to only 139 individuals out of lakhs who had appealed after being disenfranchised during the controversial roll revision exercise.

As ordered by the Supreme Court, the Election Commission issued supplementary voter lists early on Wednesday, after the 19 appellate tribunals set up to decide on 657 appeals filed by those who had been stripped of their voting rights during the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in West Bengal. The tribunals ordered the restoration of the voting rights of 139 people – spread across constituencies going to polls in the first phase – and the EC included them in the supplementary rolls.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The tribunals also ordered the deletion of eight voters who had previously been included in the electoral rolls.

These 139 re-enfranchised voters will now join around 3.60 crore electors in deciding the fate of 1,478 candidates contesting in 152 constituencies in the first phase. These seats are spread across 16 of the state's 23 districts. The remaining 142 constituencies will go to the polls in the second phase on April 29.

Of the 152 constituencies going to the polls on Thursday, the ruling Trinamool Congress had won 92 in 2021, and the BJP had secured 59, while an independent candidate had been elected from one. However, an analysis of the performance of the parties in the assembly segments during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections shows that the TMC's lead dropped to 77, while the BJP declined to 53. The Left Front and the Congress, which had drawn a blank in 2021, had leads in 12 segments.

According to the EC, the electorate for the first phase includes 1.84 crore men and 1.75 crore women. The EC has deployed about 2,407 companies of central paramilitary forces, in addition to local police. Armoured vehicles have also been deployed.

"Elections are a festival of democracy, not for killing anyone," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said at a rally in North 24 Parganas. Questioning the scale of deployment, she added, "Around two lakh central force personnel have been brought into Bengal for polls. This is unprecedented. Are they trying to intimidate me by deploying so many forces? I want to see who has more power, the armoured vehicles or the people."

Around 63.66 lakh voters, nearly 8.3% of the electorate, had been deleted from the rolls across West Bengal since the beginning of the SIR in November, 2025, till February 28. However, over 60.06 lakh more voters had been placed in the "under adjudication" category, and their eligibility to remain on the electoral rolls was subjected to scrutiny by judicial officers. The EC data showed that over 27.16 lakh voters of the 60.06 lakhs placed in the "under adjudication" category had been struck off the rolls, while more than 32.68 lakh were retained on the rolls.

TN gears up to vote today

CHENNAI, DHNS

An estimated 5.73 crore voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in Thursday's polls to elect Tamil Nadu's 17th Assembly. The polling will be held between 7 am and 6 pm at 75,064 polling stations across 234 Assembly constituencies in the state.

Of the total 5.73 crore voters, 2.89 crore are women and 2.77 crore are men, while the number of transgender persons eligible to vote is 7,617.

Chief Electoral Officer (Tamil Nadu) Archana Patnaik said about 14.59 lakh voters have been added to the electoral rolls, along with 68,501 service electors, since the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

She said 4.18 lakh postal ballots have been received and that 75,064 polling stations have been set up at 33,133 locations, with a total of 1,06,418 ballot units/control units.

As many as 3.60 lakh polling personnel and 83,875 police personnel, supported by 300 companies of CRPF, have been deployed for election work and security.

"A total of 5,949 polling stations have been identified as sensitive," she said, adding that voters will not be permitted to carry mobile phones inside polling booths and that arrangements have been made outside polling stations for the safekeeping of mobile devices.

The primary question before the electorate is this: continue to allow the DMK or AIADMK, which have ruled the state alternatively since 1967, to hold sway, or vote for the emergence of an alternative in TVK chief and popular actor C Joseph Vijay?

Tamil nationalist S Seeman's Naam Tamizhar Katchi (NTK) is also in the fray, even as expelled AIADMK leader V K Sasikala and PMK founder S Ramadoss have fielded candidates across the state.

Out of the total polling booths, 5,949 in 3,025 locations have been identified as highly sensitive, she said.

To manage these areas and ensure peaceful polling, 300 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed, working alongside 83,875 local polling police personnel.

The Commission has placed a heavy emphasis on inclusivity and special management of booths.

There are 249 model polling stations, 325 'pink' stations managed entirely by women, 71 managed by persons with disabilities, and 29 managed by youth.

(*With PTI inputs*)

A security personnel guards the election materials which are to be distributed to polling stations on the eve of Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, in Chennai, on Wednesday. PTI

After faux pas, EC notice to Kharge over Modi remark

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Election Commission on Wednesday issued a notice to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his "terrorist" remark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but only after a faux pas that saw the poll body initially mentioning Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien as one of the complainants.

Mallikarjun Kharge

While the initial notice, which was posted on the EC website at 8.16 pm and later taken down, mentioned O'Brien and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju as complainants, the corrected one mentioned the latter and "some other office bearers" of the BJP, who claimed violation of the Model Code of Conduct by the Congress president, was uploaded at 10.02 pm.

The error invited strong reaction from the Congress, which claimed that the EC was "caught lying and brazenly cheating" while demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. It said the notice aimed at Kharge has given "fresh evidence of its functioning as an attached office of the home ministry". TMC sources said no such letter was sent by it to the EC.

The action came a day after the BJP filed a complaint with the poll body following Kharge's remarks during a presser in Chennai. On Wednesday, a BJP delegation consisting of senior ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Rijiju met the EC.

In its notice, the EC said Kharge's "use of intemperate and highly objectionable and dehumanising choice" of words by a seasoned politician against a constitutional functionary appears to be "not only inconsistent" with the standards of public discourse but also "undermines the dignity" of democratic institutions.

It also said the EC was "prima facie of the opinion" that Kharge had violated provisions of the MCC and relevant instructions of the poll body.

The poll body gave Kharge 24 hours to respond to the notice.

SHIFTING SAND

Bandwan, former Maoist hotspot, to see 3-cornered fight

FROM THE GROUND

KALYAN RAY
BANDWAN, DHNS

Bandwan MLA Rajiv Lochen Soren during election campaign.

The number of police barricades at the entry to Bandwan town is a stark reminder of its bloody past.

For seven years between 2005 and 2011, it was a Maoist hotspot that witnessed the killing of several local politicians and a senior police official. Bandwan was in the middle of the Red Corridor, stretching from Jharkhand on one side and Medinipur district on the other.

As the road from Purulia enters the town, a vehicle must navigate as many as eight barricades under the watchful eyes of security personnel on both sides of the road. The threat is gone, but the fear persists.

Following the 2011 change of guard in West Bengal, hundreds of cadres from the Maoist-backed People's Committee Against Police Atrocities—an outfit highly active in Bandwan—joined the TMC.

While many may have done so to seek protection from pending criminal cases, their presence in the TMC camp instilled a sense of fear among people in Bandwan and nearby areas like Barabazar and Manbazar. This may have helped the TMC secure 47% of the votes in the last two Assembly elections, allowing it to emerge victorious.

Sitting MLA and TMC candidate Rajiv Lochan Soren was a beneficiary, winning the seat in 2016 and 2021. However, this time the contest is unpredictable, thanks to the combination of a saffron undercurrent and the Left block gathering strength.

Residents of Bandwan are openly critical of Soren due to his non-performance in improving schools, healthcare, and livelihoods.

"Soren is a school teacher. But in so many schools in and around Bandwan, there are no teachers. There are no doctors or nurses in government health centres. One of the block health centres has an X-ray machine, but the health department has not appointed an X-ray technician to operate it," said Sanjay Halder, a local businessman at Chowkbazar.

Home to tribal groups

Bandwan is also home two the Kheria-Shabar community, a particularly vulnerable tribal group that continues to live in the fringes even after seven decades of independence.

The assembly segment has 35% Scheduled Tribe voters, of which nearly one-fifth are Shabars.

Most of them are extremely poor, can eat only one square meal a day, and earn less than Rs 100 a day, and that too occasionally.

Many Shabars go to other cities to work as daily labourers.

Locals confused

The locals are confused between the BJP's pro-Hindutava campaign and TMC cash transfer schemes.

They also come under pressure from the Bhumij, another prominent regional tribal group linked to the historic Chuar Rebellion against the British East India company.

While the TMC brought Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren to campaign extensively in Bandwan and Manbazar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi narrated how his government backed the tribal communities and made one of them the president.

Will the tribal cards hold? Can CPM candidate Rathu Singh Sardar upset the equation? These are questions that hang in the air on the eve of polling at Bandwan.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Road safety through the right lens

The Supreme Court has done well to recognise commuter safety as part of the right to life guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution, placing on the State the responsibility to ensure the right. By issuing directives that translate its ruling into practical measures to protect lives on the roads, the Court has elevated commuter safety from a policy framework to a fundamental right. The implications can be wide-ranging: a citizen may now go to court seeking enforcement of her right if she finds a stretch of road too dangerous to travel. In extension, the ruling can even be invoked to demand similar protection to life when citizens use other State-provided public utilities.

Warning against highways becoming "corridors of peril" due to administrative negligence, the apex court said the loss of even one life to avoidable hazards reflected a breakdown of the State's protective mechanisms. It issued a series of directions to supplement its order, including the removal of structures such as illegal shops and eateries within the Right of Way (ROW) of national highways, restrictions on construction in the highway safety zones, a ban on vehicular parking except in the designated areas, and the constitution of a highway safety task force in every district. The Court sought the enforcement of its directives through the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), real-time alerts to the police, timestamped photographic evidence, integrated e-challan generation, etc. It also directed the Ministry of Road Transport to file compliance reports within 75 days after procuring data from the states and the relevant agencies.

SC ruling frames commuter safety as a fundamental right, placing a stronger obligation on the State

The Court noted that national highways accounted for about 30% of India's total road fatalities, though they constitute only 2% of the country's road network. This underlines the urgency to de-risk highway travel. India tops the global list in the number of road accidents and fatalities. With over 1.7 lakh deaths a year, it accounts for over 11% of the global figure. Besides the loss of lives, accidents lead to loss of livelihood, high medical costs, and waste of resources in multiple ways. Roads signify development, but the losses from road fatalities halt growth in ways not yet fully realised. It is too early to say whether the Court's intervention will help in improving road conditions or travel. But it has made a proactive call to set the tone for change. It should follow up on its directions, and the government should acknowledge its heightened and more fundamental responsibility to keep the roads safe for travel.

Census in city needs structural corrections

The delays and disarray surrounding the national Census work in Bengaluru are not merely an administrative hiccup – they reflect a deeper failure of planning and respect for frontline data workers. At the heart of the disruption lies a basic grievance: enumerators have not been fully paid for the state's Socio-Educational Survey, completed in October 2025. Added to this is the decision to split payment between two enumerators working in the same block, effectively halving individual earnings. Expecting the same workforce to shoulder fresh Census responsibilities without settling past dues is not just impractical; it is unfair. There are also complaints of arbitrary allocation of work, with enumerators assigned distant blocks, increasing travel time and out-of-pocket expenses. While the authorities claim this was meant to correct earlier imbalances, it has bred resentment and inefficiency.

The timing of the exercise reflects poor judgment by the Centre. Conducting door-to-door surveys during peak summer places avoidable physical strain on enumerators. Worse, it clashes with crucial academic responsibilities like examinations and evaluations, leading to absenteeism among teachers who form the backbone of the enumeration. The GBA's move to recruit stopgap enumerators underscores the scale of the problem. Equally concerning is the digital divide among the enumerators. The Census process is now fully digital, but several enumerators are struggling because their phones do not support the survey application. This is compounded by the poor response to self-enumeration. With fewer than 40,000 households in Bengaluru opting for the digital route, the intended easing of workload has not materialised. There is also little evidence of coordination between the state's socio-economic survey and the national Census. Both seek overlapping datasets, yet have been conducted in silos, duplicating effort and burdening enumerators. A more integrated approach will help improve data quality while reducing fatigue.

Poor planning and neglect of enumerators must not be allowed to impact the reliability of critical data

The GBA must immediately settle pending payments, rationalise block allocation to minimise travel, and provide enumerators with compatible devices or technical support. Survey timelines must align with climatic and academic realities, and greater effort is needed to improve public participation in self-enumeration. Above all, there is a need for better coordination between the Centre and the states because the stakes extend far beyond logistics. Reliable data is essential not only for population counts but also for welfare design and equitable distribution of resources. The Supreme Court, in the Indra Sawhney case, had emphasised the need for robust empirical data to justify affirmative action, including reservations. Treating it casually will only produce unreliable outcomes and a policy built on shaky ground.

PRINCIPLE WITHOUT PRACTICE

Gender gap in Parliament is a political choice

Without enforceable mechanisms to alter political parties' behaviour, women's reservation may remain a deferred ideal

SHUBHAM AIRI

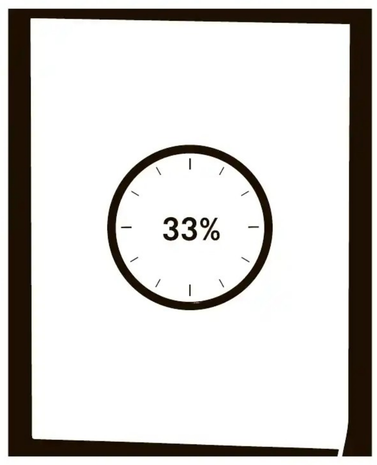
India did not reject women's reservation; it revealed a deeper hesitation. The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, widely referred to as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, already provided for one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, including within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes seats. The Act came into force on April 16. Yet its implementation remains contingent upon a delimitation exercise to be undertaken after the first Census following its commencement. On April 17, the Lok Sabha considered a subsequent constitutional amendment that sought to advance this timeline by altering the census-delimitation linkage. The amendment secured 298 votes in favour and 230 against, falling short of the required two-thirds majority. What failed was not the principle, but the effort to act on it.

This distinction matters. Article 334A, inserted through the 2023 amendment, explicitly defers reservation until a future institutional sequence is completed. With the Census pending and the last delimitation exercise having taken several years, the likelihood of reservation taking effect before the 2029 general election remains uncertain. A constitutional promise without a defined timeline risks becoming a constitutional postponement.

India's current position reflects this gap between principle and practice. Women constitute nearly half the population, yet occupy about 14-15% of seats in the Lok Sabha and around 17% in the Rajya Sabha. In State Legislative Assemblies, representation is closer to 10%, with a few states exceeding 20%. Globally, women hold roughly 26-27% of parliamentary seats. India is, therefore, not only behind leading democracies but also below the global average. The trajectory since 1952, when women accounted for just over 4% of the Lok Sabha, shows progress that is gradual but limited.

The limitation lies in where the law intervenes. The 2023 framework addresses representation at the level of seats but leaves untouched the process through which candidates are selected. The failed 2026 amendment remained within this logic, focusing on accelerating seat allocation rather than regulating political party behaviour. This assumes that once seats are reserved, representation will follow. Comparative experience suggests otherwise. Representation is shaped as much by nomination as by election.

Across democracies that have significantly improved women's representation, intervention has been directed at political parties. Argentina requires party lists to alternate between male and female candidates, and non-compliant lists are rejected. France links gender parity to public funding, reducing financial allocations to parties that do not field balanced candidate lists. Several



European systems mandate quotas in the range of 30-40%, backed by enforcement mechanisms such as rejection of candidate lists and placement rules to ensure that women are not confined to unwinnable positions. Rwanda combines reserved seats with party mandates, resulting in women holding over 60% of seats in the lower house. Latin American countries have moved further, evolving from quota-based approaches to parity laws that have produced near-equal representation.

The principle is consistent. Representation is not left to political discretion. It is secured through institutional design that directly shapes party behaviour.

When parties act as gatekeepers

In India, that point of intervention remains largely untouched. Political parties determine candidate selection, distribution of tickets, and allocation of resources without any statutory obligation to ensure gender balance. The consequences are visible in electoral data. In the 2024 general election, women constituted less than 10% of total candidates. Among major parties, the proportion of tickets allocated to women remained limited. This is the central constraint. Women candidates are not demonstrably less successful when fielded. They are simply not fielded in sufficient numbers or in constituencies where they have a realistic chance of winning.

The contrast between stated commitments and actual practice is therefore difficult to ignore. Public discourse across parties emphasises empowerment and inclusion, yet internal party structures remain predominantly male. Candidate selection continues to favour established networks and perceptions of winnability shaped by existing inequalities. The language of empowerment has advanced faster than the willingness to redistribute opportunity.

India's experience at the local level shows that outcomes change when design changes. The Constitution mandates a minimum of one-third reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, and several states have increased this to 50%. Women now constitute nearly half of all elected representatives in local governance. This expansion followed an enforceable reservation. The lesson is not that local and national politics are identical, but that institutional pathways, once created, produce participation at scale.

Political parties do not need to wait for a future Census or delimitation exercise to act. They can reform their internal structures. Party constitutions and by-laws can mandate a minimum proportion of tickets for women. Candidate selection processes can ensure that women are fielded in competitive constituencies rather than confined to symbolic participation.

The upcoming state elections in 2027, including those in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat, provide a clear test. If representation is a genuine priority, this electoral cycle offers an opportunity to translate commitment into practice rather than defer it.

India's challenge is not one of ideas. The principle of reservation has been debated, legislated, and accepted. The challenge lies in implementation, specifically in the absence of mechanisms that align party behaviour with constitutional objectives. Other democracies have addressed this through mandates, incentives, and enforcement. India has, so far, relied on expectation.

Democracies are judged not only by the ideals they endorse, but by the institutions they construct to realise them. In the case of women's political representation, India has articulated the ideal and enacted the law. What remains incomplete is the architecture that turns that law into lived reality.

(The writer is a lawyer and a former Legislative Assistants to Members of Parliament [LAMP] fellow)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Elections through my rotors

As a helicopter pilot, I have seen both ends of the spectrum in elections

AIR VICE MARSHAL MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

There must be many individuals in our country whose mobile phones never stop ringing – because of the tasks they undertake. One on that list would be the Indian Air Force's Assistant Chief of the Air Staff looking after operations of the transport and helicopter fleets, which are integral to India's election exercise.

As a helicopter pilot, I have seen both ends of the spectrum in elections – as a young pilot flying sorties for the Election Commission of India (ECI) and, later, as the assistant chief. Both ends had their own thrills. With high-stakes Assembly elections underway in many states, here are a few vignettes from the past.

It was January 1983, and we were tasked with ferrying ballot boxes and election personnel for the Tripura Assembly polls. Looking forward to some interesting flying in the verdant countryside, we were disappointed when we were grounded halfway through at Agartala after our Chetak helicopter became unserviceable. Tough luck, for sure—but we did experience an aspect of the polls that was unique.

A national party was attempting to unseat the ruling communists in Tripura. Its representative, an ex-IAF officer, was staying in the Circuit House, just like us—and so we had a ringside view of the goings-on. The first two results announced by All India Radio were both won by his party. Jubilation followed, and the officer declared, "We will form the government." Laddoo distribution began, and after having one, we headed to the airfield to check on our helicopter. On our return, we found our entry to the Circuit House barred by a large crowd waving red flags and celebrating their victory – with no sign of the ex-IAF officer from the rival party!

It turned out that those first two seats were among the very few his party eventually won. With the red-flag-bearers mocking him, he took the next Indian Airlines flight to Kolkata—and vanished.

I was the Assistant Chief of Air Staff in 2009 when the general elections were held. After numerous meetings in the Nirvachan Sadan (the ECI office), plans were disseminated to field units. The 'red corridor' was then an active hub of Maoist activity, and it is safe to say that voting could not have taken place in many areas but for the extensive work done by IAF helicopters—a role repeated in the 2014, 2019 and 2024 elections.

Helicopters were tasked with providing last-mile connectivity as the ECI moved personnel and election materials to the remotest corners — from the jungles of the 'red corridor' to the hills of Ladakh and the North East. Additionally, the humongous task of moving police and paramilitary forces was done by the transport fleet. Then, after the polls, began the equally sensitive task of de-inducting ballot boxes.

Are there close calls during the electioneering process? Certainly. But the IAF can be justifiably proud of not having caused a delay even once in a process that unfolds over multiple phases. So, as the contentious West Bengal and Tamil Nadu elections get underway, do spare a thought for the men and women in blue who help deliver that inked finger which defines democratic India.

And a special thumbs-up to the present Assistant Chief who, I am sure, would be busy answering his mobile phone.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Replace hazardous manual firecracker-making practices

I refer to 'Casualties of systemic neglect' (Apr 22). Firecracker accidents are rising at an alarming rate. It is increasingly evident that profit-driven industrialists find ways to bypass stringent safety rules and regulations. This calls for urgent and decisive action. It is time to adopt modern technologies that create safe illuminations and controlled sound effects within permitted decibel limits, ensuring public entertainment without risking lives. At the same time, the livelihood of traditional firecracker workers must be safeguarded. They should be supported through alternative employment opportunities and skill development. All stakeholders must work towards replacing hazardous manual firecracker making practices.
A K Sugunan, Bengaluru

Educate politicians

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti's proposal to establish a college of politics is a worthy idea. Budding politicians should be educated about the enormous work and sacrifices made by earlier leaders for attaining independence and later for building a democracy. One hopes this new college will help foster a positive political culture.
E P Menon, Bengaluru

Unbecoming words

I refer to 'Blurring lines: Politics in the PM's address' (Apr 21). The PM's address to the nation, and the words he chose to describe the Opposition, were unbecoming of the office. It appears that the PM's sole concern is to win elections, rather than govern and fulfil the people's aspirations. At a time when the nation is facing external threats and internal strife, the charade of a special session to discuss bills that were doomed to fail is unacceptable.
Hemachandra Basappa, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Mallikarjun Kharge has not violated any code of conduct... He was talking about tax terrorism... These people try to create terror by politically using the ED... This is exactly what Kharge has said.
B K Hariprasad, Congress leader

In our time political speech and writing are largely the defence of the indefensible.
George Orwell

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

The hegemon at peace with war

Wars and exploitation have powered the US model of global dominance. Is rising China signalling a shake-up?

R RANGANATH

The world is witnessing the waltz of wealth and power under the façade of democratic ideals and statesmanship, not for the first time. By the 15th century, Europeans mastered gun technology, a Chinese invention. Britain, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Portugal became naval superpowers. 400 years of colonial expansion made them rich beyond imagination, leaving the Global South impoverished. An Oxfam 2025 report says the British looted a staggering $64.82 trillion from India.

The Europeans arrived in the Americas in 1492 and by 1900 had decimated the indigenous population by 95%. The exploitation of land, resources, and enslaved people was worth hundreds of trillions of dollars. It was a successful business model. The unimaginable wealth of European settlers grew alongside racial inequity and sustains even today.

As the financier and supplier to a warring Europe, the United States enjoyed a massive industrial boom during World War I. After the war, the world's financial capital moved from London to New York, and a debt-laden Europe yielded to the new hegemon, the US. Forty-four nations signed the Bretton Woods agreement after World War II, establishing the US dollar as the world's currency of trade, with the IMF funding Europe's recovery. NATO and the Cold War justified the US military presence in Europe.

In the Middle East, the US recognised Israel within 11 minutes of its creation in 1948; $300 billion of aid has created a vital ally. The Carter Doctrine of 1980 commits the US to guarding the Persian Gulf and justifies its military presence in the GCC countries. They reciprocate by investing in US treasury bonds and buying armaments from US defence contractors.

Japan and Korea import oil from the Middle East, not from nearby Russia, to align with US policy. Eighty-five US military installations provide security dating from Cold War times. Like the GCC, they invest their trade surplus in US treasury bonds and defence contracts. The richer world pays for protection and bolsters the US economy in return. The poorer world is better subdued through force.

The first attempt at effecting a regime change in Iran was in 1953, when an elected government was overthrown because it nationalised the Western oil industry. Since then, the US has attempted regime change in Guatemala, Cuba, Vietnam, Brazil, Chile, Grenada, Nicaragua, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Venezuela (twice) and now, again, in Iran. The familiar refrain of "spreading democracy and removing tyrants" has cloaked the real motive: securing rich natural resources and cheap labour for US companies by installing friendly tyrants. The US has spent more than $9.5 trillion on these operations.

The order shifts

Countries such as North Korea and Libya were sanctioned on suspicion of attempting to build nuclear weapons. However, it is acceptable for Pakistan, even with its history of terror, to build a nuclear weapon. Osama bin Laden sought shelter there. By his own confession, their nuclear scientist, A Q Khan, provided sanctioned Iran with technology and training. However, India's nuclear programme was sanctioned in 1998. Our non-alignment comes at a cost.

Who has benefited, then? The top five defence contractors in the US are companies that are 100 years old. They require the US to be at war constantly somewhere, to continue earning $20 billion to $70 billion annually. Nine of the ten richest people in the US are technology moguls. The defence-technology nexus profits both. They require rare earth minerals, making Greenland and Ukraine important because other large deposits are located in hostile countries. The demand for treasury bonds overseas keeps the dollar stable, the stock market booming, interest rates low, and the huge federal budget deficit funded.

However, in the richest nation on earth, 600,000 people are homeless, minimum wage has stayed stagnant for 17 years, life expectancy is declining, and 35 million people are below the poverty line.

Thucydides said, no hegemon lasts forever, only the methods of domination do. China's innovation, technology, stability, trade surplus, and global ambitions are trending upwards. US treasury bonds are already sliding, with major economic ramifications, as the vassal states shop for other avenues to stay secure, their confidence in US protection shaken by the war against Iran.

The hegemon had mastered the art of making peace with war, with exploitation looking like benevolence. The mask has slipped, and the world recalls that the nuclear policeman is the only country that has ever dropped a nuclear bomb.

(The writer is a retired corporate leader)

Gujarat local polls: AAP's rise eclipses BJP as Congress' bigger worry

DATELINE Ahmedabad

SATISH JHA

In the local body elections in Gujarat to be held on April 26, the ruling BJP has already secured more than 700 seats without a single vote cast. The reason is that candidates from the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) withdrew their nominations. The number has more than tripled compared to the 2021 elections.

The opposition parties alleged that it was due to "arm twisting, coercion and allurement" that their candidates withdrew their nominations. The Congress and AAP have been alleging that it was a "murder of democracy" in the manner in which their candidates withdrew. The BJP, on the other hand, dubbed it a victory and a failure of opposition parties to find the right candidates.

From Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to other state leaders, BJP leaders lauded their "victory" and even urged voters to deliver such a decisive mandate that the opposition would not dare to file nominations.

However, political observers say such developments are not entirely surprising. They note that even at the height of its dominance in the state, the BJP tends to leave little to chance, often seeking to maintain a clear advantage over its rivals by hook or by crook. Some also point to concerns about the use of State resources and institutions in ways that may work to the party's benefit.

The State Election Commission announced elections for a total of 9,992 seats across municipal corporations, municipalities, taluka panchayats, and district panchayats on April 1, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's series of public meetings in Gujarat.

The prime minister urged people during his public meetings "to keep the super-fast express of development moving from panchayat to Parliament". It marked the beginning of the BJP campaign. This message from the top also reflects how seriously the BJP takes these elections.

While the BJP is aiming to maintain its firm grip on the state, the election is seen as critical for the principal opposition, the Congress, which is facing an existential crisis. More than the BJP, the Congress faces a growing challenge from Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, which is aggressively positioning itself to emerge as the main opposition force in the state.

Despite remaining away from power for decades, the Congress had largely retained its vote share until the arrival of AAP in the 2022 election. That year marked its worst defeat, with the party winning just 17 seats in the 182-member Assembly and securing around 27% of the vote.

In contrast, in 2017, the Congress had won 77 seats with a little over 41% vote share. AAP was not in the fray then.

In 2022, AAP secured about 13% of the vote but won only five seats. Post-result analyses suggested that AAP split the Congress vote, contributing to the BJP's sweeping victory of 156 seats. In at least three dozen constituencies, AAP's presence significantly impacted the Congress's prospects, benefiting the BJP.

Rather than damaging the BJP's prospects, AAP leaders, with their aggressive campaigning, have been able to attract youngsters, particularly from dominant Patidar communities. As an opposition force, AAP is seen as more effective.

Another example of AAP's growing challenge to the Congress was the 2021 Surat Municipal Corporation elections, when the Arvind Kejriwal-led party won 27 out of 120 seats, while Congress failed to open its account.

The result effectively pushed the Congress out of the corporation and positioned AAP as the main opposition force. It also marked the AAP's first significant electoral breakthrough in Gujarat, followed by the party winning five Assembly seats in the 2022 elections.

What also makes these local elections crucial is whether the final outcome mirrors the 2022 Assembly election, which saw a significant chunk of Congress' vote share shift to AAP. In this context, the results are likely to set the tone for next year's Assembly election.

Historically, local elections have played a key role in the rise of the BJP. The party saw one of its early electoral successes in 1983, when it won the Rajkot Municipal Corporation election, followed by coming to power in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in 1987. In less than a decade, it built a strong cadre base across municipalities and corporations, and by 1995, it was able to form the state government on its own.

Behind this electoral success was sustained grassroots work by the RSS, along with the rise of Hindutva and the politics of religious *yatras*.

Ever since, while the BJP has maintained its hold across all levels of administration in the state, right from local bodies to agricultural and dairy boards, the opposition Congress has steadily lost its grip.

In this context, AAP leaders and supporters look more serious on the ground. Kejriwal has been frequently visiting the state, particularly meeting workers in the Saurashtra region, wooing the influential Patidar voters as well as the tribal belt where the party has found leaders and a support base. **DHNS**

The energy industry is planning for a future where the choke point on Iran's southern coast is a lot less important

The Strait of Hormuz may not go back to normal

REBECCA F ELLIOTT

Iranians walk past a giant billboard reading 'The Strait of Hormuz remains closed' at the Revolution Square in Tehran on Wednesday, amid a ceasefire in the region. AFP

Even if the Strait of Hormuz opens again, energy executives and analysts say the industry will no longer be able to count on it as it used to. For the strait, there is no going back to normal.

Countries across the region are exploring building, expanding or rehabilitating infrastructure that would bypass the strait.

And nations that import fuel from the region are racing to secure oil and gas from elsewhere, putting conservation measures in place and turning to alternatives like coal. Those strategies are likely to shift over time. Today's coal use may give way to greater investment in solar power and nuclear energy, for example.

No matter what happens next, Iran will not forget how easy it is to strangle shipping through the strait, meaning that energy companies and consumers must prepare for a very different future.

"From the moment missiles started falling and drones started hitting, it was very clear that we weren't going back," said Badr Jafar, a businessperson who serves as special envoy for business and philanthropy for the United Arab Emirates.

To stem the current energy crisis, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have rerouted substantial portions of the oil they produce to ports away from the Strait of Hormuz, via pipelines built years ago in preparation for a crisis. Iraq also recently started sending a small amount of oil to Turkey in a pipeline that has slid in and out of service for years because of political and armed conflict.

More than seven million barrels of oil are being shipped out of the Persian Gulf each day on one of those routes, up from fewer than four million barrels a day before the war, according to the International Energy Agency.

But that is a fraction of the 20 million barrels of oil that travelled through the strait daily before the war. And pipelines are doing nothing for geographically isolated countries like Kuwait and Qatar. They are also of little use for transporting aluminium, fertiliser and other goods.

For those reasons, not to mention geopolitical objectives, reopening the strait remains very important. The strait's centrality is why international oil prices plunged 9% on Friday, to their lowest levels since the second week of the war, after Iran's foreign minister said the strait would be "completely open."

But Iran reversed course the next day, after President Donald Trump made clear that US forces would keep blockading vessels travelling to and from Iranian ports. The United States later seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship that Trump said had tried to get around the US blockade.

That back-and-forth reinforced the idea that free passage through the strait can be halted by any world power determined to do so.

"The Strait of Hormuz will be less important in 2030 or 2035 than it was in January," said Elliott Abrams, who served as a special representative for Iran and Venezuela during the first Trump administration. "People will find alternatives."

Some simpler options include expanding existing pipelines, storage capacity and ports in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. But that would solve only a portion of the problem. Most Persian Gulf countries do not have the benefit of access to another coast that lies outside the strait.

Iraq, which is among those without another coast, has floated building a new pipeline to the Mediterranean Sea by way of Syria.

Political conflict often stymied such cross-border projects in the past. A pipeline from Iraq through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea was built in the 1980s. But Saudi Arabia shut it down in 1990 after Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, invaded Kuwait.

Now, with few working alternatives, last month Iraq was forced to shut the production of an estimated three million barrels a day of oil, according to the IEA.

"You can draw beautiful lines on the map," said Robin Mills, CEO of Qamar Energy, a consulting firm based in Dubai in the Emirates. "To try to make it happen in reality is something else."

Jafar expressed optimism that the war might inspire the kind of regional cooperation that had previously been elusive.

"There's nothing like both a sense of urgency and an imperative to decouple from this choke point for us to see these sorts of things coming together," Jafar said. "It's not impossible, far from it."

This kind of infrastructure would most likely cost billions of dollars — and potentially tens of billions for larger projects. That said, crises like the one the world is experiencing are expensive, too.

"One or two months of a disruption like this, and it pays for itself," Mills said, referring to smaller projects like expanding existing alternatives.

Of course, no alternative would be failsafe, as Iran has demonstrated by attacking energy assets throughout the region. But having more options makes it harder for countries to choke off the supply of energy from the region.

Energy importers are also moving quickly to diversify away from the Persian Gulf, whether by buying more fuel from the United States or making plans to restart nuclear power plants. Those trends are likely to be sticky, energy experts say. They could give an upper hand to oil and gas producers that are not at the mercy of maritime choke points and accelerate the transition away from oil and gas.

But remaking energy trading routes to prioritise resilience — rather than efficiency — will be expensive. Such investments will take time and are likely to raise energy prices for consumers, said Spencer Dale, who until recently was the chief economist of the London-based oil company BP.

"The world is just now more uncertain, more vulnerable than it was before," said Dale, now a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The rational response is to compensate by making the energy system more resilient to geopolitical upheaval, he said. "But that all comes at a cost."

Meanwhile, the conflict has severely constricted the supply of oil from the Persian Gulf. Countries with the financial means — China, Japan, Europe, the United States — are securing much of what they need, paying whatever it takes.

Some are restricting exports to hold on to what they have. That has pushed prices higher everywhere. At the same time, shortages threaten less affluent nations in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

Some economists are describing this as hoarding. "The market is not some harmonious allocating mechanism, but ends up being the law of the jungle," said Isabella Weber, an economist at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "Rationing by price explosion ends up being fundamentally unjust."

Not for the first time, the world is reckoning with the reality that fear of scarcity can become self-fulfilling. Increased prices for critical commodities like oil and natural gas are amplified by a feedback loop of alarm and feverish buying. As national governments understandably seek to protect their economies from running out of vital goods, their purchasing affirms the impetus for others to lock up supply.

This truth has been illustrated over decades by shocks to the world's food supply. A similar story played out during the Covid-19 pandemic as nations banned exports of protective gear and competed for limited doses of lifesaving vaccines. Now, the same dynamic appears to be driving up prices for energy around the globe, yielding shortages of cooking gas in India and jet fuel in Southeast Asia.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Energy Agency jointly exhorted countries not to hoard stocks of energy or ban exports, warning that such measures would worsen the situation for the globe.

The New York Times

When teachers struggle with English

RAVINARAYAN CHAKRAKODI

The state plans to expand the bilingual education framework in government schools alongside introducing a monograde system from the academic year 2026–2027. The move has been widely welcomed by teachers, who see its potential to strengthen conceptual understanding while improving students' access to English. Yet, teachers will need sustained support to build the proficiency, confidence and fluency required for English-medium teaching. Classroom evidence shows many still struggle with sentence construction, reading comprehension and oral and written communication. This raises a key question: what happens when teachers are not comfortable with the language of instruction?

Language is not merely a subject; it is the medium of learning in English-medium classrooms. Teachers with higher proficiency provide clearer explanations, more accurate input and better classroom interaction. Teaching through a bilingual approach demands both language competence and pedagogical skill; without proficiency, even sound pedagogy is difficult to implement.

The issue is systemic rather than individual. Many teachers come from regional-medium backgrounds with limited exposure to communicative English. Teacher education has often emphasised written exams over speaking and interaction. Short-term training cannot compensate for years of limited exposure, and many teachers experience hesitation or fear while using English. These factors point to the need for sustained support.

When teachers struggle with English, the effects are immediate. They may rely excessively on the mother tongue, avoid explanations in English and limit student exposure. Concepts are often oversimplified, complex texts are skipped and higher-order questioning reduced. Teacher talk tends to dominate, with limited student interaction.

These patterns affect students directly. Limited exposure to English hampers their ability to form sentences, express themselves and build confidence. When language becomes a barrier, understanding subject content suffers, leading to reduced participation and engagement. Over time, this can have a cumulative effect, affecting students' academic achievement, progression and future opportunities.

In English-medium government schools, the aim is not to eliminate the use of the mother tongue but to use it strategically while strengthening English proficiency. A bilingual approach allows new knowledge to connect with students' existing linguistic resources, with the mother tongue serving as a cognitive and linguistic bridge, especially for complex concepts. At the same time, English exposure must be systematic and meaningful, not forced or superficial.

A bilingual approach does not require perfect mastery of English, but demands functional proficiency. Teachers must be able to give instructions, explain ideas in simple English, interact with students and gradually increase the use of English. Without this foundational competence, the goals of bilingual education cannot be effectively realised.

When teachers have limited English proficiency, the bilingual approach risks becoming translation-heavy, where teaching is reduced to verbatim translation rather than concept-building. This often leads to overdependence on the mother tongue and minimal exposure to English, with students getting few opportunities to hear, use or experiment with the language. In such cases, instead of functioning as a scaffold, the classroom remains largely monolingual in practice, which undermines the purpose of adopting English-medium instruction.

Strengthening teachers' functional English proficiency is therefore essential — not to replace bilingual pedagogy but to make it effective. This requires a sustained, practice-oriented approach rather than short-term interventions. Teachers need continuous opportunities to engage with the language in meaningful ways, with language development embedded in everyday teaching. Schools must create sustained and integrated support systems and foster an English-rich atmosphere while also encouraging the appropriate use of the mother tongue, without placing excessive pressure on teachers to perform flawlessly.

At the policy level, expectations must remain realistic and aligned with the gradual nature of language learning. Teachers should be supported to make incremental progress rather than being judged against immediate standards of fluency. Ultimately, improving teachers' English proficiency is not merely an individual responsibility but a systemic priority that requires coordinated efforts across training institutions, schools and educational policy frameworks.

(The writer is a professor and academic head at the Regional Institute of English, South India, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

First lady General in French Army

Paris, April 22
A woman was today promoted to the rank of General for the first time in the history of the French Armed Forces. The new top officer Valerie Andre, 54, joined the Air Force as a doctor in 1948 and became a pilot and parachutist serving in Indo-China and Algeria. She was a heroine in two Indo-China campaigns where she made 21 parachute drops to treat the wounded, and flew out 165 wounded in an aircraft she piloted. The doctor, who still flies as a Colonel in the military air transport command, became a helicopter pilot in Algeria where she carried out 365 battle-field missions.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

India condemns "brutal act of murder"

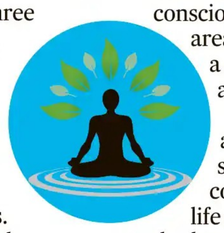
New Delhi/Shillong, April 22
As the body of one more BSF man killed by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and two injured BSF jawans were today handed over by the Bangladesh Rifles at Mahendragunj in Meghalaya, India described the killings as a "brutal act of murder" but said the Bangladesh government was not aware of it. Two days after the bodies of 15 BSF personnel were handed over, a decomposed body identified as that of Havildar Dhyan Chand and two injured BSF constables, Akshay Kumar and Bimal Kumar, were received by the Commandant of the 118 BSF battalion.

OASIS | R ESWARAN

From indulgence to *tapas*

What is the principle behind indulgence? We can never list out all the ways in which indulgence happens because one mind itself has infinite ways of indulgences. The list is endless; the principle is one. Indulgence means search for instant happiness. The senses do not wait. They seek pleasure now, not later. The eyes seek pleasing sights, the ears agreeable sounds, the tongue taste, the skin comfort, and the nose stimulation. The objects vary endlessly, but the drive is singular: immediate gratification. Also, there is no fixed object for indulgence. The senses tend to seek indulgence by trying to maximise contact with objects in such a way that multiple senses are satisfied at once. More the number of senses engaged, greater is the pleasure experienced. When mind joins with its hopes and expectations it strengthens the indulgence.

Indulgence happens in three stages: the very perception or contact triggers; at the second level, when you are searching for that specific contact; and at the third ad deepest level, the mind imagines contact. This stage is the most dangerous. Here, effort becomes difficult. Knowledge prevents you from going to the third. Therefore, discipline must begin early.



Do not attempt control in your strongest weakness. The moment you think of restraining, you will start thinking about it more. The mind will resist and defeat you. Instead, begin where indulgence is weaker. Practise conscious withdrawal there. In the areas of higher intensity, have a timetable. Do not withdraw abruptly there.

The Indian calendar is a thoughtfully designed schedule for meaningful contact — aligning human life with nature. A disciplined rhythm of contact and abstinence is more effective than forceful denial. Restraint alone is incomplete; the mind must be given something higher —ideally, knowledge. Knowledge doesn't mean the conclusions we draw; mind is greedy for conclusions, but knowledge means reflection. And reflection means the ability to question – How many times have I already done this (indulgence) and how many more times will I go on repeating it? Has it delivered what it has promised? When knowledge cannot be sustained, *Karma Yoga* should be brought into practise- shift from "What gives me happiness?" to "How can I contribute?" Between two indulgences, use this space for reflection or meaningful action. This is where transformation happens. In the initial stages, what works better for vast majority is more of action, less of knowledge. This effort to restrain and replace the indulgence of the senses is called *tapas*.

Calcutta HC stays EC's 'troublemakers' order

KOLKATA, PTI: The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday stayed an order of the Election Commission's police observer, engaged in the West Bengal Assembly elections, who termed several citizens "troublemakers" and directed action against them.

Acting on a PIL that claimed people's fundamental right to liberty would be affected by the order, a division bench held that the police observer had "erred in issuing a blanket direction by treating certain citizens as troublemakers".

The division bench stayed the effect and operation of the April 21 order till June 30.

The court, however, made it clear that this order will not come in the way of the civil/police authorities to proceed against any person who commits an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Representation of People's Act 1951 or any other penal law.

"Putting it differently, even if the persons whose names find place in Annexure A of the letter dated April 21, 2026, commit an offence, this interim order will not come in the way of the authorities to proceed against them in accordance with law as per their own independent discretion," the court directed.

11 killed in UP's Mirzapur as truck rams multiple vehicles

MIRZAPUR (UP), PTI: Eleven people were killed in a multi-vehicle accident on Wednesday in Dramandganj area here, police said.

SP Aparna Rajat Kaushik said that information about the accident was received at around 8.30 pm.

The collision occurred on a route descending from the Dramandganj valley towards the Lasoda area, where a vehicle lost control and crashed.

Preliminary investigation suggests that a truck coming from behind possibly rammed into another truck after suffering a brake failure. A car got trapped between the two trucks during the collision. In the sequence of events, another vehicle was also hit and caught fire.

Police teams and fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot immediately upon receiving the information.

According to initial information, one of the trucks involved bears a Bihar registration number, while the other is registered in Madhya Pradesh.

'Extraordinary situation' in Bengal: SC raps Mamata over I-PAC raids

Says CM cannot step into probe & claim Centre-State conflict

THE MATTER

- SC is deciding on maintainability of writ petition filed by ED for the lodging of CBI FIR against WB CM
- Mamata Banerjee was booked for alleged interference in search op at I-PAC office in Kolkata earlier this year
- Court is told that there was no criminal conduct, intimidation, or infraction, and that ED should have approached judicial magistrate for FIR
- It points to gherao of judicial officers during SIR to ask if that was feasible

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said a chief minister could not walk into a probe by a central agency and claim that it was a dispute between the Centre and the State, and the matter at hand was not an ordinary dispute of "Ram versus Shyam" but an extraordinary situation with distinct contours.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N V Anjaria strongly disagreed with the contention about the maintainability of a writ petition by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the lodging of a CBI FIR against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for alleged interference in the search operation launched at the I-PAC office in Kolkata earlier this year.

The court also did not agree with the argument that the ED should have approached the judicial magistrate for lodging the FIR instead of filing a writ petition. It referred to a recent gherao of judicial officers engaged in the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls in West Bengal.

Examining the matter, the bench said it was not a dispute between the state and the Union, and that the CM of a state could not walk in the midst of an investigation.

"This is, per se, an act committed by an individual who happens to be the CM," said the bench in response to submissions by senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy against the maintainability of the plea.

"When we come to the facts, the court will see there is no situation as described by the other side," she said.

The contentions

The court was told that there was no criminal conduct, no intimidation, and no infraction. It was also contended that the questions related to Article 32, arising in the case, were required to be examined by a larger bench. It was also argued that the ED could have moved before a judicial magistrate with its complaint.

The bench, however, said that it could not ignore the realities on the ground in West Bengal, and pointed to the recent incident where judicial officers were held hostage.

"And you want the petitioner to have gone to a magistrate under Section 200?" the bench asked.

The court said it could not lose sight of the practical situation in the state.

"Don't compel us to make observations. This is not a litigation between Ram and Shyam. This is an extraordinary situation where the contours are totally different. Court has to take a decision keeping in view socio-political realities," the bench said.

Sabarimala: SC asks if women can be let in as 'reform'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

BIG QUESTIONS

- Nine-judge bench says no universal rule can govern State intervention in religious matters; decisions must be case-specific.
- Court examines the scope of Articles 25 and 26 on religious freedom versus State's power under social reform
- Judges note the State may act against social evils, but such actions must pass constitutional scrutiny

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked whether a state law that expressly permitted the entry of young women into the Sabarimala temple, in the name of social reform, would amount to an invasion of religious practice or could be a valid reform measure.

A nine-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant also said it would be difficult to lay down any universal or prospective guidelines as to when the state could intervene in religious practices in the name of social reform, since such questions would necessarily depend on the facts of each case.

The court was hearing a batch of review petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of the religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

The bench also comprised Justices B V Nagarathna, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, M M Sundresh, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi. During the hearing, the bench said the state, as a representative of the people's will, might legitimately act to address social evils, but judicial assessment would always be context-specific.

"The state represents the people's will, and if the people want certain social evils to be reformed, probably that power can be exercised. But it is very difficult for us to lay down any future guidance. It will always depend on case to case as to whether the reforms fall under Article 25(2)(b) or, in the name of reforms, it amounts to an infringement of a religious practice," it said.

Hearing the arguments, Justice Nagarathna sought to know if a state law that expressly permitted the entry of young women into the Sabarimala temple in the name of social reform would amount to an invasion of religious practice or could be sustained as a valid reform.

"If the Kerala rules said, in the name of social reforms, that the entry of women between the ages of 10-50 to the temple was permitted, is it an invasion, or could we say it is not an essential practice and therefore upheld?" she asked.

India denies paying Iran for Hormuz strait passage

Scammers offer fake safe passage for crypto: Reports

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Wednesday denied making any payments, either in cash or cryptocurrency, to Iran to secure safe passage for its vessels through the Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions in the region.

The clarification came after two Indian vessels had to turn back from the Strait of Hormuz after Iranian forces fired upon them as they attempted to cross the crucial waterway on April 18.

Before turning back, the captain of Indian tanker Sanmar Herald, in an audio recording that has surfaced, is heard pleading with Iranian forces to stop firing despite prior clearance to pass the Strait of Hormuz. "This is motor vessel, Sanmar Herald. You gave me clearance to go, my name is second on your list... You are firing now. Let me turn back."

While New Delhi has consistently rejected claims of any financial arrangements with Tehran for ship movement through the critical energy corridors, some reports linked the April 18 incident to a crypto scam.

Reports suggest scammers are offering shipowners fake safe passage through the strait in exchange for crypto. At least one ship fell victim to the scam and was fired at while attempting to pass through the waterway, according to Marisk, a maritime risk services company.

At a news briefing, Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, termed as "fake news" the report of any payment being made for the safe passage of Sanmar Herald. "News is spreading about a reported payment by the captain of the vessel Sanmar Herald in US dollar to persons claiming to represent the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy to grant passage, and fell victim to cyber criminals. We spoke with the owner of the vessel, and he confirmed that it is fake news," he said.

He said his ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, assesses the situation before asking Indian vessels, stranded in the Persian Gulf, to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

Chennai-based Sanmar Shipping denied any payment and said it is working in close coordination with the Indian government to ensure the safe passage.

Online gaming rules notified

NEW DELHI, PTI

NEW GUARDRAILS

The 'Online Gaming Authority' established as a digital-first regulator under MeitY to oversee the sector and issue 10-year digital registration certificates

- Registration is optional for most social games. Mandatory registration is only required for E-sports or specific categories notified by the government based on risk and financial volume.
- A "determination litmus test" will identify and prohibit online money games. The Authority can order banks to instantly block financial transactions for any game classified as such
- Service providers must implement "User Safety Features," including age-gating, time restrictions, parental controls, and counseling support to protect players

The government on Wednesday notified long-awaited rules to operationalise the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, paving the way for a digital-first regulator — the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) — and a "regulation-light" framework. The rules come into effect from May 1, 2026.

Notably, the norms introduce a new concept of 'user safety features' as an enabling provision - technical, procedural, operational, behavioural or system-related safeguards appropriate to the risk profile of the game. These include age-verification and age-gating, time restrictions, parental controls, user reporting tools, counselling support, and fair-play and integrity monitoring. Service providers are required to disclose their 'user safety features' and internal grievance mechanisms at the time of application for determination or registration.

The new rules stipulate a determination litmus test, to classify whether an online game constitutes an online money game which parent Act explicitly bans - such a test is trigerred in three situations: in case the authority itself initiates a suo motu review, where the provider has an e-sport offering, or notably, where government specifies a category of social games basis "nature, volume or value of financial transactions or authorisation of funds" needed to participate in it.

The factors for determination take into account aspects such as whether the online game involves payment of fees or a deposit of money at any stage of participation.

Expectation of monetary winnings, the structure of the revenue model, and the manner in which rewards or in-game assets are redeemed or monetised outside the game would be other touchstones.

Such determination (classification) will be completed within 90 days of a complete application or of notice issued in a suo motu proceeding.

Factors for classification include payment of fees or deposits, expectation of monetary rewards, revenue models, and monetisation of in-game assets.

While real-money gaming is explicitly banned under the Act, e-sports will require mandatory registration. The government may also notify certain social games for registration based on user risk, scale, or financial transactions.

Registered entities will receive a digital certificate valid for up to 10 years and must comply with disclosure, data retention, and grievance redressal norms.

OGAI, an attached office under MeitY, will oversee classification, registration, enforcement, and coordination with banks, which must ensure transactions are limited to authorised gaming entities.

'35 years, no witness': SC stays proceedings in 1989 case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a striking case showing systemic delays in criminal trials, the Supreme Court has stayed proceedings dating back to 1989 because not a single prosecution witness had been examined in over three decades.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi heard advocates Rajesh G Inamdar and Shashwat Anand appearing for the petitioner Kailash Chandra Kapri, a senior police officer, and expressed concern over the extraordinary 35-year delay and indicated its inclination to quash the proceedings on this ground alone.

The order came in a special leave petition challenging the Allahabad High Court's refusal to quash the criminal proceedings.

The petitioner has been facing trial under Sections 147, 323, and 504 of the IPC, along with Section 120 of the Railway Act, in connection with an FIR registered in 1989 at the GRP Rambagh Police Station in present-day Prayagraj.

The HC refused to quash the proceedings or stay the trial, which has been pending before the Court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Railway), Prayagraj, despite the passage of 35 years.

Out of the five accused who were originally charge-sheeted, two have since passed away, while the remaining two co-accused have already been acquitted owing to the prosecution's failure to produce any witnesses to lead evidence.

Taking note of the peculiar facts and circumstances, particularly the inordinate delay and the collapse of the prosecution's case, the court observed that it was inclined to quash the proceedings, noting that continuing such a trial would serve no meaningful purpose.

However, it issued notice to the state and granted an interim stay on further proceedings before the trial court.

HC discharges 4 in 2006 Malegaon case

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Blasts timeline

From 2006 attacks to 2026 court discharges, a case marked by shifting probes

Alleged links: SIMI, support from Lashkar-e-Taiba

ADDITIONAL ARRESTS

Rajendra Chaudhary · Dhan Singh · Manohar Narwaria · Lokesh Sharma

On Sept 8, 2006

Blasts at Bada Kabrastan, Mushawra Chowk, Hamidiya Masjid

Casualties 37 killed · 312 injured

Investigation timeline

- Initially probed by ATS (Maharashtra)
- Later transferred to CBI
- Taken over by NIA on March 22, 2011

KEY COURT OUTCOMES

April 25, 2016 — MCOCA court drops charges against 8 Muslim accused

April 22, 2026 — Bombay High Court discharges 4 later accused

Case developments

- **Feb 2008:** Trial stayed by Supreme Court accused challenged the applicability of MCOCA
- **June 2010:** Trial resumes after MCOCA upheld
- **2011:** NIA takes over; early accused granted bail
- **May 22, 2013:** Chargesheet filed

Early accused (2006 arrests)

Noor-Ul-Hooda Samshudoha Ansari · Shabbir Ahmed Masiullah alias Batterywala · Raees Ahmed · Dr Salman Farsi · Dr Faroqh Maghdumi · Mohammed Ali · Mohammed Zahid alias Zahid Ali · Asif Bashir Khan alias Junaid · Abrar Ahmed Saeed (approver)

Nearly two decades after bombs ripped through the Muslim community-dominated powerloom town of Malegaon in Maharashtra's Nashik district, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday discharged four persons — the last remaining accused in the sensational 2006 blasts case — and effectively brought the trial in one of India's most sensitive terrorism cases to a close.

The four discharged are Rajendra Chaudhary, Dhan Singh, Manohar Ram Singh Narwaria, and Lokesh Sharma. They had been out on bail since 2019.

A division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Shyam C Chandak set aside the September 30, 2025, order of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court that had framed charges against the remaining accused. The detailed order is awaited.

On September 8, 2006, three blasts — coinciding with the Shab-e-Baraat festival — at Bada Kabrastan, Mushawara Chowk, and Hamidiya Masjid claimed 37 lives and injured 312 others.

The accused had been booked under provisions of the Indian Penal Code for murder and criminal conspiracy, as well as under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The four accused discharged on Wednesday were arrested after Swami Aseemanand, an accused in several other blast cases, made a statement alleging their role in the Malegaon blasts.

Aseemanand, who was also an accused in cases such as the Samjhauta Express, Mecca Masjid, and Ajmer Sharif blasts, was later acquitted, with courts terming his confession unreliable.

The NIA's case relied heavily on his purported 2010 confession, in which he allegedly claimed that an associate, Sunil Joshi (since deceased), told him the Malegaon blasts were carried out by "his boys". Aseemanand later retracted the confession, alleging coercion.

No eyewitnesses

The defence argued before the HC that there were no eyewitnesses linking the accused to the blasts, and that the prosecution's case rested on a confession already discredited in multiple courts.

On April 25, 2016, a special court under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) discharged eight of the nine accused.

With the Bombay HC order, no accused remains to face trial in the 2006 Malegaon blasts case.

HC shields KCR, Harish Rao in Kaleshwaram case

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a major relief to BRS supremo and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his nephew, former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao, the Telangana High Court on Wednesday ruled that no action shall be taken against them based on the Justice P C Ghose Commission report on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, terming its findings prejudicial.

KCR

Harish Rao

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G M Mohiuddin delivered the verdict on a batch of writ petitions filed by KCR, Harish Rao, IAS officer Smita Sabharwal and former Chief Secretary S K Joshi.

The court upheld the validity of the commission under Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, ruling that its constitution was neither arbitrary nor illegal. However, it said findings against the petitioners violated principles of natural justice and safeguards under Section 8B, and would remain inoperative. It added that no action could be taken against the petitioners based on the report.

Section 8B mandates that if a person's conduct is examined or their reputation may be affected, they must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard and present evidence. The court found this was not followed.

The commission, set up on March 14, 2024, probed alleged irregularities in the planning, design and execution of the Kaleshwaram project. Its 665-page report, submitted on July 31, 2025, held KCR responsible for lapses and flagged issues from the conceptualisation stage, including alleged suppression of expert reports.

It also cited cost escalation from Rs 38,500 crore to over Rs 1.10 lakh crore and linked structural damage at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages to flawed planning and design.

The ruling triggered political reactions. BRS Working President K Tarak Rama Rao called it a "slap on the face" for the Congress government, alleging vendetta. Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao said the verdict exposed procedural lapses by the state.

IRS officer's daughter raped, murdered by ex-domestic help

NEW DELHI, PTI: A 22-year-old IIT graduate and daughter of a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer was allegedly raped and murdered at her residence by their former househelp in southeast Delhi's upscale Kailash Hills locality on Wednesday morning, hours after the accused and his associates allegedly sexually assaulted another woman in Rajasthan's Alwar.

Rahul Meena, the 19-year-old domestic help who had worked with the family for around eight months and was sacked around a month ago, has been arrested for the crime, police said this evening.

The woman, who was preparing for the UPSC examination, was alone in her house at the time of the incident and was found murdered in a room by her family members when they returned from the gym, they said.

Preliminary inquiry suggests the woman was sexually assaulted before being strangled to death using a mobile phone charger cable, the police said, adding they are waiting for the post-mortem report for confirmation of sexual assault.

Pahalgam attack anniversary observed quietly amid heightened vigil

High alert in South Kashmir as tourist inflow continues, albeit muted

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Tourists take a pony ride even as the way leading to Baisaran, right, looks deserted amid heightened security, on the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, in Anantnag. PTI

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday marked the first anniversary of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack with subdued observance and heightened security, while tourists continued to visit the resort town under a tight security grid.

Authorities maintained a high alert across South Kashmir, particularly in and around the Baisaran Valley, where the attack had taken place. Additional deployments, intensified vehicle checks, and area-domination exercises were carried out as precautionary measures.

Officials confirmed that the anniversary was observed without large public gatherings, with the administration opting for restraint, considering in view of security concerns. No untoward incident was reported during the day.

Even as the anniversary was being marked, tourist movement continued in Pahalgam, though under a visible security presence. Reports indicated that while core tourist areas such as Betaab Valley and Aru were open and receiving visitors, the attack site at Baisaran remained restricted, with heavy guarding and limited access. The inflow, however, remained below usual, reflecting a cautious return to normalcy.

Some visitors have been stopping at newly-created memorial sites in the area to pay homage to the victims, even as authorities push measures to restore confidence in the destination.

At the national level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led tributes, saying the victims "will never be forgotten" and reaffirming India's resolve against terrorism.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also paid homage, saying the memory of the attack "still shakes our hearts."

The Army reiterated its commitment to counter terrorism, warning that such acts would invite a "decisive response."

The attack, in which 25 tourists and a local guide were killed, had triggered nationwide outrage and a series of counter-terror operations.

Terror will never succeed: PM

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the "heinous designs" of terrorists will never succeed as he recalled the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, even as the Congress claimed that Pakistan's growing global respectability reflected the "complete failure" of the "self-glorifying style" of his diplomatic engagement.

While Modi said he remembers the innocent lives lost in the gruesome attack and that they will never be forgotten, top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi said the spirit of India "stands unbroken, resolute and united" against every act of terrorism and will "never bow before the forces that spread hatred and fear".

"As a nation, we stand united in grief and resolve. India will never bow to any form of terror. The heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed," Modi said.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh recalled that the J&K Lieutenant Governor had admitted the incident was due to an "intelligence failure", but said there is no clarity on the action taken on this admission, even though the killers were brought to justice a few months later.

"Pakistan stood isolated after it carried out the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008. Its economy continues to be in shambles, dependent on largesse from external donors. Separatist movements are deeply entrenched in its polity and society. Its politics is dysfunctional, and it is the Army that is calling the shots in the country," he said.

Kharge said the nation will "never forget nor forgive" the sacrifices of innocent citizens, as he saluted the valour and sacrifice of the armed forces.

"We also remember our citizens at the border who lost their lives due to cross-border shelling. Their sacrifice is etched in the conscience of the nation. The spirit of India stands unbroken, resolute and united against every act of terrorism," he said.

Thrissur explosion: Probe ordered, Rs 14-L aid announced

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Kerala government on Tuesday ordered an inquiry into Tuesday's catastrophic explosion at the Thrissur firecracker unit.

According to official sources, ten deaths have been confirmed so far, while five persons are still missing. DNA tests are being done to confirm the identity of the body parts recovered.

Among the 12 under treatment, the condition of four continued to remain critical.

As investigations by multiple agencies continue, specialists highlight that basic safety regulations were not adhered to in the firework manufacturing facility. Although the initial theory suggested that the extreme heat may have contributed, experts dismiss this idea. The potential for an electrical short circuit also remains a consideration.

The state government announced a judicial probe by Justice C N Ramachandran Nair. Financial assistance of Rs 14 lakhs each was announced for the kin of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh each to the injured.

Cow slaughter no ordinary crime, disrupts public order: HC

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Allahabad High Court has said that cow slaughter is not an ordinary crime and that it has the potential of creating widespread ripples in society and can trigger communal tension.

A division bench of Justice J J Munir and Justice Sanjiv Kumar made the observation recently while rejecting a habeas corpus petition filed by one Sameer and others challenging their detention under the National Security Act (NSA) by the district magistrate of Shamli.

"There are some issues where the community is sensitive to the extent that if these surface, there is an inherent potentiality of creating widespread ripples in society that would affect the even tempo of life. One of them is cow slaughter," the court said.

"The slaughtering of a cow, whenever reported or detected, spontaneously evokes strong emotions and violent reactions for obvious injury to the religious beliefs of a large section of society. History is replete with instances of profusion of emotions and violence that an incident of this kind entails. Violent reactions at the happening of cow slaughter are so well reputed that no one can feign ignorance of the fact, violation of the law apart," it said.

It said that "public order is, after all, not about what the intention of the individual was or what law he has violated. It is about the impact that his act generates. If the act in question is such that it is not confined to one, two, or a few individuals but disturbs the even tempo of life in the locale or may be beyond it, in larger areas, prejudice to public order is certainly there."

The court also said that the offence committed by the petitioner was not an offence of the ordinary violent kind that affected the life of one individual or a group of them, unconcerned with the stable life of the community, which would go on unruffled by his actions, and that he had committed an act that aroused public outrage amongst a large section of the population in the locale, whose religious feelings were hurt.

The matter pertained to the alleged recovery of beef in the Jhinjhana area in Shamli last year, which incited communal tension.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT'S NEW, SWEETHEART?
KISS
NOT MUCH, HONEY
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
NOT MUCH, HONEY
AT THIS RATE, I'M NOT EVEN GONNA MENTION HOW MUCH MY RAISE WAS TODAY
LET ME GUESS...

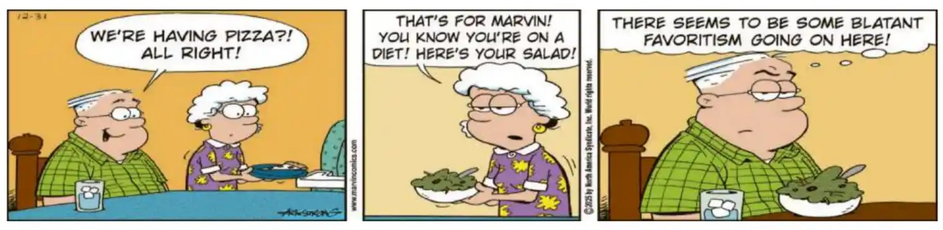
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

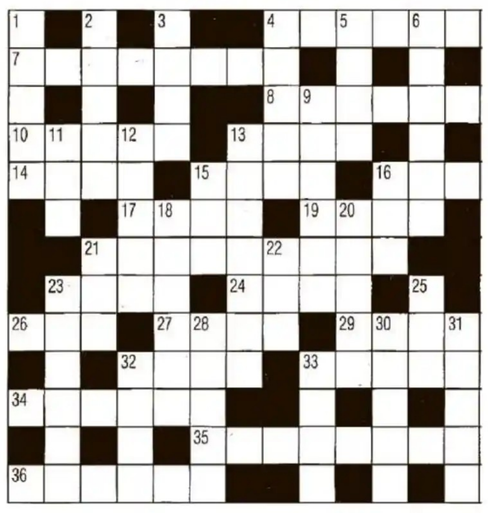
Peanuts

WOODSTOCK IS INTO MACRAMÉ
HE'S ALSO INTO RUNNING, AND HE'S INTO POETRY
HE'S INTO MEDITATION, AND HE'S INTO GENEALOGY
ACTUALLY, HE'S INTO "INTO"!

Marvin


WE'RE HAVING PIZZA?! ALL RIGHT!
THAT'S FOR MARVIN! YOU KNOW YOU'RE ON A DIET! HERE'S YOUR SALAD!
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME BLATANT FAVORITISM GOING ON HERE!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12401



ACROSS
4 Longshoreman (6)
7 Cosmos, world (8)
8 Spanish dance (6)
10 Equine mammal (5)
13 Datum (4)
14 Country (4)
15 Kind (4)
16 That woman (3)
17 Operator (4)
19 Very keen (4)
21 Cause trouble (4,5)
23 Mechanical routine (4)
24 Man's name (4)
26 Drinking vessel (3)
27 Twist out of shape (4)
29 Paradise (4)
32 Group of cattle (4)
33 Proverb (5)
34 Pugilists (6)
35 No longer in use (8)
36 Jail (6)

DOWN
1 Japanese dish (5)
2 Jewelled headdress (5)
3 This place (4)
4 Exclude (5)
5 Young male horse (4)
6 Deserved (6)
9 Note group (6)
11 Mineral (3)
12 Short and broad (5)
13 Attacking footballer (7)
15 Observe (3)
16 Belonging to him (3)
18 Kebab spike (6)
20 Annoyed, confused (5)
21 Cleaning item (3)
22 High mountain (3)
23 Gossip, hearsay (6)
25 Beseech (3)
28 Illegal burning (5)
30 Stuns (5)
31 At no time (5)
32 Farmyard birds (4)
33 Particle of matter (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Benders in the garden? (6)
7 Is worn, having influence no longer (8)
8 Sailor made to go, possibly without leave (6)
10 Obvious to many a listener (5)
13 In David Copperfield, he has the key to the piano (4)
14 Food from the East (4)
15 It's nonsense, mate (4)
16 To do so is work, or sounds so (3)
17 What to keep when out of control (4)
19 As in the desert, you get one free (4)
21 Obliged legally to jump clear? (5,4)
23 Hardly a long shot? (4)
24 Russian perhaps good at Scandinavian? (4)
26 A month of possibility (3)
27 Praise a chap not being in uniform (4)
29 Open for a drink (4)
32 Just an old fool's bit of fun! (4)
33 Projected piece of playground equipment (5)
34 They're customary when a seaman strikes out (6)
35 Busy when fuel escapes freely out of a hole (8)
36 New design centre (6)

DOWN
1 Mostly cold, can give a hot effect (5)
2 Run to the end of the street, fast! (5)
3 Wet weather? Down with it! (4)
4 Scottish form of sabre (5)
5 The buzzer was quiet (4)
6 Wandered around the garden (6)
9 Live to own things and show one's breeding (6)
11 Put down some things to sit on, perhaps (3)
12 Inland, but it has a wild coast! (5)
13 Keep going to make an offer of? (4,3)
15 The heavy heart of Glastonbury (3)
16 An opening word from Dr. Johnson (3)
18 Shop exit? (6)
20 A very superior glare, possibly (5)
21 Obtain by going out of turn (3)
22 Stale ingredient of school dinners (3)
23 A team to beat Villa? (6)
25 Sorry about the school head getting notice (3)
28 The way it's put, it must be a good thing (5)
30 Just for the moment, I'm leaving Jim uncertain (5)
31 State the ruling head may be male (5)
32 Juliet and I have an old-fashioned dance (4)
33 Dan's upset ñ by George! (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12400

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Top hat 7, Hospital 8, Fi-do 10, Peeler 11, MO-lest 14, Ten 16, Sidle 17, She'd 19, Poked 21, (in)Valid 22, Valet 23, Pa-pa 26, BAs-ic 28, Far 29, I-MP-act 30, More so 31, Aria 32, Clean-cut 33, Tah-iti.
DOWN: 1, Tempos 2, Hailed 3, Thor 4, Op.-posed 5, Steed 6, Plate 8, Fete 9, Den 12, Lid 13, Slump 15, Poles 18, Hiram (hire ëem) 19, Pa-L 20, Kit 21, Vac-c-ine 22, Via 23, Paris-H 24, Area 25, A-go-uti 26, Birch 27, Sp-I-ed 28, For 30, MA-TT.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Reacts 7, Hindmost 8, Date 10, Biased 11, Cinema 14, Men 16, Riles 17, Taps 19, Bevel 21, Fades 22, Carat 23, Bald 26, Recur 28, Tub 29, Adhere 30, Silent 31, Tell 32, Commence 33, Tutors.
DOWN: 1, Rabbit 2, Ceases 3, Shed 4, Admires 5, Dowel 6, Atlas 8, Damp 9, Ten 12, Nil 13, Metal 15, Medal 18, Asked 19, Bar 20, Vet 21, Farrier 22, Cue 23, Bullet 24, Abel 25, Deters 26, Ranch 27, Chums 28, Tie 30, Stet.

◆SU-DO-KU-6887◆

	8			4				
	9							8
4		7	2			5		
		4	5	7				6
		5				2		
7				8	3	1		
		3			7	8		5
9							1	
				5			9	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6886

3	8	6	2	9	4	5	7	1
2	1	7	8	6	5	3	4	9
4	5	9	7	1	3	8	2	6
6	7	5	1	3	9	2	8	4
1	3	8	6	4	2	9	5	7
9	4	2	5	8	7	1	6	3
5	9	4	3	7	8	6	1	2
7	2	1	9	5	6	4	3	8
8	6	3	4	2	1	7	9	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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I1	E1	E1	T1	V4	D2	C3	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 1
A1	A1	S1	L1	L1	E1	B3	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
F4	L1	A1	A1	A1	L1	F4		RACK 3
O1	R1	P3	D2	S1	I1	E1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 185-195
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	A1	D2	L1	Y4		RACK 1	= 9
L1	I1	L1	A1	C3	S1	RACK 2	= 24
D2	O1	G2	G2	Y4		RACK 3	= 22
A1	R1	I1	K5	I1		RACK 4	= 9

PAR SCORE 40-50 — JUDD'S TOTAL = 64

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

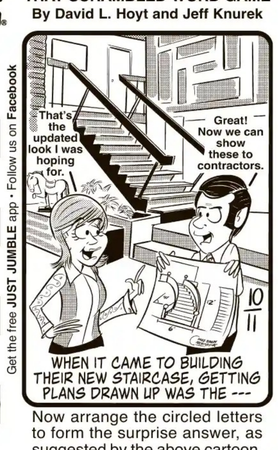
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NRTKU

CIPYS

CFTROA

SLPEIV


That's the updated look I was hoping for.
Great! Now we can show these to contractors.
10/11
WHEN IT CAME TO BUILDING THEIR NEW STAIRCASE, GETTING PLANS DRAWN UP WAS THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ○○○○○○ ○○○○○ (Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: TABBY ADMIT HOMILY DEFEAT
Answer: When it came to whether worms or lures attract more fish, it was — "DE-BAIT-ABLE"

HITORI-3341

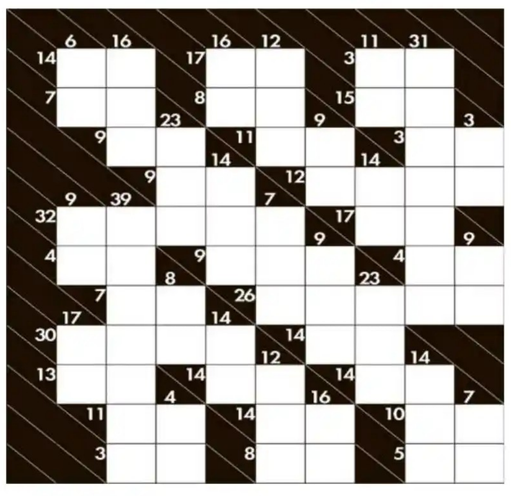
3	8	6	6	5	2	1	7
6	8	8	3	2	8	7	1
1	3	1	2	8	4	5	7
8	2	7	7	6	3	4	8
7	4	2	5	7	8	8	6
7	1	6	8	7	5	8	2
5	5	1	6	8	7	6	4
5	2	4	7	5	8	8	3

SOLUTION TO 3340

■	7	■	3	2	■	5	6
2	6	7	■	1	8	■	3
6	■	1	4	■	2	3	8
7	3	6	■	4	1	■	5
■	8	■	6	7	■	2	1
4	1	8	■	5	6	■	2
5	2	4	1	3	■	8	7
■	5	■	2	■	4	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3341



SOLUTION TO 3340

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3894

		7				6		
4			1		6	8	5	
			4					
	2						8	
							3	4
				2		5		
	3	5						
	4	2	3					9

SOLUTION TO 3893

3	1	2	6	4	9	7	5	8
6	5	4	8	7	3	9	2	1
8	7	9	1	2	5	4	6	3
5	2	7	4	8	6	1	3	9
9	4	6	3	1	7	5	8	2
1	3	8	5	9	2	6	4	7
2	6	3	7	5	1	8	9	4
4	9	1	2	6	8	3	7	5
7	8	5	9	3	4	2	1	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Indian Embassy in Italy rejects viral video claims

LONDON, PTI: The Indian Embassy in Italy on Wednesday refuted claims that certain individuals were denied access to its premises in Rome, rejecting as "false and fabricated" the allegations made in a video posted on social media.

"We have seen a video made by a certain Indian national. The claims made by him are false and fabricated," the Embassy said in a post on X.

In the video, an individual is heard saying that he is on Italian soil and must not be pushed around. A person can also be seen trying to reason with the youths as one of them films the altercation on his phone. "He had come to the Embassy and we were ready to meet him, but he refused to show his identity or passport. We follow standard security protocols for visitors to the Embassy," the mission said.

The Embassy said it remains committed to offering all possible assistance to Indian nationals. "We have regular outreach to all members of the Indian community," it added. The unidentified youths accused Embassy staff of rude behaviour and attempting to force them into the premises.

Israel backs India in fight against terrorism

JERUSALEM, PTI: Vowing to fight terrorism "resolutely" in "all its forms", Israel on Wednesday expressed solidarity with India on the first anniversary of the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives on April 22 last year. "We honour the memory of the innocent lives lost," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar wrote on X.

Trump says Iran to free 8 women after intervention

Tehran denies execution claims, says some already released

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI/AFP

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Iran had halted alleged plans to execute women detained during anti-government protests and would release them after he urged Tehran to act.

"I very much appreciate that Iran, and its leaders, respected my request ... and terminated the planned execution," Trump wrote on the Truth Social platform. He said he had been informed that four of the women would be released immediately, while four others would be sentenced to one month each in prison.

Trump had earlier suggested that the release of the women could help advance peace negotiations, as uncertainty persists over US-Iran talks hosted by Pakistan.

Rights groups said at least one woman arrested during the January protests had been sentenced to death, while another faced charges carrying the death penalty. They also noted that two of the women had already been released on bail in March.

Trump had re-posted images of the women, including two teenage girls, on social media, citing claims by an activist that eight women were facing execution. However, the Iranian judiciary denied that any of the women were on the verge of execution, stating that some had already been released.

Rights groups have accused Iran of using capital punishment to instil fear and of increasing executions of political prisoners amid the war involving the US and Israel.

Vehicles drive past a giant billboard reading 'The Strait of Hormuz remains closed' at the Revolution Square in Tehran on Wednesday. AFP

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Travel sector is the hardest hit due to rising jet fuel costs
- Consumer goods are facing margin pressure
- Manufacturing and industrial sector is witnessing major supply chain disruptions
- Food manufacturing is also under strain over shipment disruptions
- A total of 21 companies have withdrawn or cut guidance, 32 have signalled price increases, and 31 have warned of a financial impact

US extends sanctions relief on Russian oil

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Wednesday that he had extended sanctions relief on Russian seaborne oil for 30 days following requests from countries most vulnerable to oil shortages due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Bessent told a US Senate Appropriations subcommittee budget hearing that the requests came from finance leaders of about 10 countries during last week's International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings.

Pakistan steps up push for US-Iran talks

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan on Wednesday intensified efforts to bring the US and Iran back to the negotiating table to end the war in West Asia after President Donald Trump extended the ceasefire indefinitely.

Trump said he was extending the ceasefire at the request of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Following the space created by the truce, Prime Minister Shehbaz met Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam and discussed the ongoing regional situation and peace efforts.

A day earlier, Moghadam had met Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Both sides emphasised the need for a sustainable solution through diplomatic channels to reduce regional tensions.

Separately, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and exchanged views on the latest regional developments.

Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in the peaceful settlement of disputes, according to the foreign office.

Dar also received British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, and they discussed the evolving regional situation.

He underscored Pakistan's ongoing efforts to facilitate engagement and reiterated the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving disputes peacefully.

EU clears €90bn Ukraine loan after Hungary standoff

Pipeline dispute eases as oil supplies resume

BRUSSELS, AFP

The EU on Wednesday gave the green light to unblock a 90 billion euro (USD 106 billion) loan for Kyiv after a months-long deadlock between Ukraine and Hungary over a damaged pipeline.

Diplomats said final approval should come by Thursday, as Budapest awaits the resumption of Russian oil supplies through the Druzhba pipeline after Kyiv said operations had restarted.

The bitter dispute over the pipeline pitted Hungary's nationalist premier Viktor Orbán against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, delaying the vital funds for Kyiv.

Resolving the standoff will allow Brussels to begin disbursing the loan in the coming months, which Ukraine needs to support its budget more than four years into Moscow's invasion. "Implementation of our agreement with the European Union to unblock a EUR 90 billion support package for Ukraine over two years is now effectively underway," Zelenskyy, who is expected to join a summit of EU leaders in Cyprus on Thursday, posted online. "The unblocking is the right signal under the current circumstances. Russia must end its war."

Kremlin-friendly Orbán — who suffered a crushing election defeat this month — had vowed not to budge until Ukraine repaired the pipeline damaged by a Russian strike.

Officials said on Wednesday that Ukraine had restarted pumping oil to Hungary and Slovakia, a day after Zelenskyy announced that repairs had been completed.

Hungarian energy giant MOL said it "expects the first crude oil shipments following the restart of the Ukrainian section of the pipeline system to arrive in Hungary and Slovakia by tomorrow at the latest".

Slovakia's Economy Minister Denisa Saková also said the first deliveries were expected in the early hours of Thursday, in a post on Facebook.

Hungary and Slovakia — among the most Kremlin-sympathetic EU member states — had accused Kyiv of delaying the repairs.

China picks two Pakistanis for space mission

BEJING, PTI: Two Pakistani candidates have been selected as the first foreign astronauts for China's space mission training, a government announcement said on Wednesday.

The two Pakistanis, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, will come to China soon as reserve astronauts for training, the China Manned Space Agency said.

After completing all training and evaluations, one of them will participate in a space mission as a payload specialist, becoming the first foreign astronaut on board the Tiangong space station. The first selection of foreign astronauts for China's manned space programme was completed in early April.

Last year, China announced plans to send an astronaut from its all-weather ally Pakistan as its first foreign guest to its space station, currently orbiting about 400 km above Earth.

The agreement to send a Pakistani astronaut was signed by the China Manned Space Agency and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission.

SMOKE-FREE GENERATION

UK passes bill to phase out cigarette sales

LONDON, AP/PTI

Opponents of smoking welcomed a major step forward as Parliament passed a bill that will gradually put cigarettes out of reach for future generations.

"The end of smoking, and the devastating harm it causes, is no longer uncertain — it's inevitable," Hazel Cheeseman, chief executive of Action on Smoking and Health, said after a decades-long campaign that led to the legislation's approval on Tuesday.

Children born after December 31, 2008, will be banned from ever buying cigarettes under the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

The legislation, which still requires approval by King Charles III — a formality — before taking effect, will also allow the government to regulate tobacco, vaping and nicotine products, including flavours and packaging. It is currently illegal to sell cigarettes, tobacco products or vapes to people under 18.

However, under the new law, most young people will face a lifetime ban as the minimum age to buy cigarettes rises each year.

The measure gives the UK one of the toughest anti-smoking regimes in the world.

The number of people who smoke in Britain has declined by two-thirds since the 1970s, but about 6.4 million people — or roughly 13% of the population — still smoke, according to official figures.

Nepal home minister resigns

KATHMANDU, PTI: Nepal Home Minister Sudan Gurung on Wednesday tendered his resignation following allegations relating to his financial conduct while in office.

The resignation by Gurung, who was appointed Home Minister on March 27, comes amid growing criticism over his alleged business links and share transactions with a controversial businessman. Gurung wrote on social media that he had resigned to ensure an impartial probe into matters relating to his financial conduct and to avoid any conflict of interest while in office.

"For me, ethics is greater than position, and there is no greater force than public trust... If anyone questions the government formed on the blood and sacrifice of my 46 brothers and sisters, the answer to that is ethics," Gurung wrote on Facebook.

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana- 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK -6

PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/111 Date:- 15/04/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of **(94)** companies in the **Karnataka** state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC2614505	U74900KA2019FTC121126	VEDKONNECT PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC2672820	U47912KA2023PTC171630	REFURBE ONLINE PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC2756714	U17299KA2022PTC161901	V B R GARMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC2801821	U72100KA1996PTC020376	LEONARDO AUTOMATION (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC2843506	U46411KA2023PTC179706	SPINFLUENCE APPARELS AND TEXTILES PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC2792265	U74999KA2019PTC128638	KJKSAA & ASSOCIATES CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC2822037	U74999KA2018PTC109960	ADVOLTIS PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC2816853	U45400KA2020PTC139722	BEE HOMES REALTY PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC2843846	U29269KA2020PTC131451	REC.FLOW CONTROLS PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC2930785	U15209KA2024PTC192199	LATE NINETS VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC2483663	U72900KA2018PTC109391	AGTRON INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC2569413	U72900KA2019PTC128452	BRHASPATIM SOLUTIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC2517566	U31501KA2010PTC053414	SYSCON METERING SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC2362018	U72900KA2017PTC100984	BEECRYPT IO PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC2930762	U72900KA1995PTC017851	ORANGE CITY EDUCATIONANDTRAINING SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC2796940	U74992KA1983PTC005289	UNIVERSAL BUSINESS CONCEPTS PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC2519805	U52290KA2024OPC183758	BJAYAM LOGISTICS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC2515123	U40108KA2008PTC046787	J H P WIND POWER PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC2448073	U74999KA2021OPC154972	SMILES AND POSES PHOTOGRAPHY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AC2523672	U74110KA2020PTC142085	XCHEER ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC2606771	U65910KA1994PTC015103	ASWATI HOLDINGSANDPROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC2459457	U67190KA2022PTC156979	CN FINANCIAL ADVISORY PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC2614086	U74999KA2020PTC138638	LYFTLY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC2771523	U74999KA2017PTC104900	TUMMYFILL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC2612103	U80903KA2021PTC146616	NOOFFICIAL SCHOOLS PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC2627519	U24290KA2021PTC189692	NEUTRON BIOLOGICAL PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AC2684339	U72900KA2021FTC144575	UKAMA PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AC2645615	U41001KA2023PTC176015	ROHAN RESIDENTIAL AND HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AC2632675	U35999KA2001PTC029472	TRIBHUVAN AUTOMOBILES PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AC2921414	U80301KA2022PTC163935	BRIGHTFLIGHT LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AC2638482	U63040KA2021FTC146485	BIDWINGS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AC2672823	U56290KA2025PTC207633	CREVORA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AC2675590	U74900KA2016PTC085775	NOTEL MEDIA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AC2656078	U72200KA2012PTC063411	MVIKARSHA MOBILE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AC2865481	U74999KA2019PTC120080	TOPAGRO RAITA PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AC2683517	U70200KA2023OPC177079	STRATADVISORS PARTNERS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AC2711538	U72900KA2019PTC120415	SCINEXUS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AC2690159	U72900KA2011PTC061822	INNOVATE SEARCH PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AC2715768	U62020KA2024PTC183007	HRHYTHM TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AC2732458	U62091KA2023PTC173513	INNBENNE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AC2730381	U51909KA2019FTC120187	ROHLEDER EAST PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AC2730538	U74999KA2021PTC147924	ARKIHIVE DIGITAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AC2883362	U72100KA2016OPC094145	GHONTO TECHNOLOGY LABS PRIVATE LIMITED (OPC)
44	AC2729076	U74140KA2020PTC135383	KHUSHEIM TECH AND SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AC2741002	U72900KA2021PTC146315	365 DIGITAL ADS PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AC2879515	U70200KA2025FTC208743	ESUHAI INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AC2873118	U96092KA2023PTC178156	PAWTEL AND SPAW PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AC2823723	U74999KA2019PTC121189	ELEVATIONS INFOLINE SOURCING PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AC2763417	U36999KA2017PTC108869	STHIRA ECO PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AC2744397	U62091KA2023PTC173108	VICHARAVE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AC2770899	U70200KA2024OPC191366	MARSH GREY SERVICE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AC2755855	U72200KA2022PTC167408	TRIKALAJNA EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AC2712142	U52601KA2022PTC159518	SV FUTURE DISTRIBUTORS PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AC2784387	U46901KA2025PTC199258	RHOSELECT PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AC2784765	U62013KA2025OPC205021	KARSUGAN VENTURES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AC2790981	U74999KA2016PTC097162	PHI MOTION PICTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AC2783515	U72900KA2020PTC142606	PIXELBYTE STUDIO PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AC2880922	U70109KA2022PTC163796	ROI PROJECTS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
59	AC2784773	U85500KA2024PTC185432	TROPES AND PIVOTS LEARNING SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
60	AC2787966	U31909KA2001PTC028777	KE-MATERIAL HANDLING PRIVATE LIMITED
61	AC2810391	U62011KA2025PTC203305	GOALCRAFTS INFOTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
62	AC2805900	U27203KA2011PTC061773	TEJ ALUMINIUM PRIVATE LIMITED
63	AC2803281	U29195KA2000PTC027039	SOMU PROTOPACK PRIVATE LIMITED
64	AC2809543	U74900KA2015PTC083435	TSE BUSINESS CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
65	AC2821153	U74900KA2014PTC075462	REALYTICS SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
66	AC2794986	U72900KA2020PTC138650	HEALTHBRAHMI TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
67	AC2822910	U52300KA2021PTC152586	IMPORTIKAAH PRIVATE LIMITED
68	AC2837941	U78100KA2023PTC172140	GRADEKHO CAREER SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
69	AC2822550	U74999KA2018PTC119196	SNAPLEARN INDIA SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
70	AC2820912	U72900KA2011PTC058581	7I SECURITY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
71	AC2814403	U15400KA2018PTC114214	JUZI FRUITS PRIVATE LIMITED
72	AC2835414	U62013KA2023PTC181282	PLATFORMOPS SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED
73	AC2821506	U52609KA2022PTC158684	VEDARAS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
74	AC2817226	U62099KA2023PTC177413	INTIANT TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
75	AC2849659	U74999KA2022PTC163675	CREDOPTIMO PRIVATE LIMITED
76	AC2816784	U27200KA2021PTC145403	FRASYIL INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
77	AC2830541	U74999KA2021PTC154822	BIZPLAT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
78	AC2805026	U72900KA2020PTC133730	GLOBALEZIO ECOMMERCE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
79	AC2817889	U74999KA2020PTC139189	UNCLE JACKY PRIVATE LIMITED
80	AC2829576	U80903KA2020PTC136039	D L TRAINING SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
81	AC2835603	U74999KA2016PTC092434	SPUNDREAMS CREATIVE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
82	AC2837906	U51909KA2021PTC151051	STOIC MERCHANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
83	AC2829864	U74999KA2021PTC150688	PARIBHARATHI DIGITAL MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
84	AC2829554	U70109KA2019PTC127818	ABHIVRUDHI PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
85	AC2834477	U92490KA2016PTC093262	INDIAN FOOTBALL COACHES ALLIANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
86	AC2534076	U65990KA2022PTC167643	KANDIBILA HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED
87	AC2252794	U93000KA2012PTC065637	AS VISAS AND PERMITS.COM PRIVATE LIMITED
88	AC2851725	U72100KA2022PTC160924	BEYDAY TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
89	AC2848872	U80301KA2011PTC060776	LINKSTREET LEARNING PRIVATE LIMITED
90	AC2843578	U63030KA2014PTC073993	SCELTA LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
91	AC2852937	U72200KA2006PTC039732	ENGGSOFT INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
92	AC2839201	U85500KA2025PTC199797	KANAKA MINDFULLNESS PRIVATE LIMITED
93	AC2859377	U72200KA2005PTC038056	FORESIGHT SURVEY SUPPORT (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
94	AC2848520	U72900KA2016PTC094418	VUMONIC TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Raunak Agrawal
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0040/2627

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that, my client has negotiated to purchase the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from its Owner's by Mr. S Ramagopal, aged about 76 years, S/o Late Sreenivasa Murthy K N, residing at No.285, 10th main Rd, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru -11, Aadhar no. 4144 1609 2900, PAN No.AAPPR7898J, Mr. Venugopal S, aged about 73 years, S/o Late Sreenivasa Murthy K N, residing at No. 285, 10th main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru -11, Aadhar No. 5253 1429 5207, PAN No. AAGPV3541B, and **Ms. KALLUR**, aged about 72 years, daughter of Late Mr.K.N. Sreenivasa Murthy, residing at 5106 Calle Real #B, Santa Barbara, CA 93111 US Passport No. 592900560, PAN No. OGWPK2790D My client's vendor, during the negotiation have stated to my clients that they are exclusive Title Holders, Absolute owners of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY, which is under their possession and enjoyment, so also they are lawfully empowered and entitled to deal with the SCHEDULE PROPERTY including Sale, on the same my client's have agreed to purchase the SCHEDULE PROPERTY. The General Public are hereby notified not to enter into any negotiations with my client's vendor, or any persons acting on their behalf with respect to the SCHEDULE PROPERTY, or their GPA holder for sale or for any such transaction, which shall amount to transfer of title, interest, and possession, or any such transaction of what so ever nature, either through registered or unregistered document, any such person or persons, or organization, or registered bodies, since my client's have negotiated to purchase the same. Any such person proceeding any further shall be doing at their costs and risk, and such transaction shall not bind my client's in any manner, under law. Any 3rd parties or individuals,or any such persons,or legal entity or authorities, do having any such right or interest, over the SCHEDULE PROPERTY, are also requested and called upon, to contact the undersigned counsel with proper documents and proof, to that effect, **within 7 days** from the date of this Notice, failure, any such claim made subsequently, will not bind my client's, and my client's will proceed for the Sale Deed transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of premises bearing No. 285, having new EPID No. 1278446700, situated at 10th Main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, with site measuring east to west 60 feet and north to south 40 feet totally measuring 2400 Square feet along with the standing building in the premises, bounded on;North by:Site bearing No. 286 South by: Site Bearing No.284 East by: 10th Main Road West by:Site Bearing No. 272

Shivaraj P N, ADVOCATE,Address: R/at No.130, 4th Cross Defence Layout, Vidhyaranyapura Bengaluru - 560 097 Phone No.: 8867644680Email: advshivaraj95@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertising and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates:

1. **Catering & MPS stalls**: 28.04.2026, 28.04.2026, 22.05.2026, 29.05.2026
2. **Parking & Pay and Use**: 24.04.2026, 28.04.2026, 05.05.2026, 20.05.2026, 21.05.2026, 27.05.2026, 28.05.2026
3. **Parcel**: 24.04.2026, 07.05.2026, 08.05.2026, 14.05.2026, 15.05.2026
4. **Advertising, ATM & Misc:** 24.04.2026, 28.04.2026, 11.05.2026, 12.05.2026, 13.05.2026, 14.05.2026, 15.05.2026, 18.05.2026, 19.05.2026, 25.05.2026, 26.05.2026,

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/50/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Bengaluru

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WORLD AT A GLANCE

Actress Emily Blunt and designer Donatella Versace attend the premiere of the film 'The Devil Wears Prada 2' in London on Wednesday. AP/PTI

Gates Foundation reviewing its ties to Jeffrey Epstein

▶ The Gates Foundation is reviewing its ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as its only remaining founder faces mounting scrutiny over his appearances in Justice Department documents related to its investigation of the disgraced financier, AP/PTI reports from New York. Microsoft founder Bill Gates spoke "candidly" about his ties with Epstein in a town hall meeting of the foundation. But the external probe marks the nonprofit's plainest attempt yet to address associations that have cast a pall over its efforts to end preventable maternal/child deaths and control key infectious diseases.

Truth Social CEO Nunes fired

▶ The Trump business behind Truth Social is replacing a former congressman and strong supporter of US President Donald Trump as the leader of the social media platform after a stock collapse that wiped out billions in investor wealth, AP/PTI reports from New York.

Devin Nunes, a former California congressman during Trump's first term, is being temporarily replaced by digital media executive Kevin McGurn as chief executive officer. The company, Trump Media and Technology Group, did not give a reason for Nunes's departure or provide a timeline for a permanent replacement.

Biz Bytes

Dragged by IT shares, Sensex tumbles 757 pts

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1% on Wednesday, snapping a three-day gaining streak due to heavy selling in IT stocks and an uptick in crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 756.84 points or 0.95% to settle at 78,516.49. During the day, it slumped 831.03 points or 1.04% to 78,442.30.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 198.50 points or 0.81% to end at 24,378.10.

HCLTech shares tank nearly 11%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shares of IT major HCLTech on Wednesday tumbled nearly 11% after the company's March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

The stock tanked 10.85% to settle at Rs 1,285.20 on the BSE. During the day, it slumped 11% to Rs 1,281.55. At the NSE, the stock dropped 10.81% to end at Rs 1,285.30.

The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 42,428.15 crore to Rs 3,48,760.24 crore.

Olive to bring 10 Spark by Hilton hotels to India

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hilton and Olive Hospitality have announced signing of their first 10 Spark by Hilton hotels in India. Set to open across key corridors including Bengaluru, Goa, Jaipur, Nashik, Mathura, Pune, Rajkot and Hyderabad, the expansion is part of Hilton's strategy to deepen its presence beyond metros.

Andrew Ling, Regional Head, Focused Service and All-Suites Brands, Asia Pacific, Hilton, said, "Spark by Hilton was created to bring the hallmark reliability of Hilton to a new generation of travelers who value quality, comfort and consistency at an accessible price point.

India allows blending of ethanol in ATF

NEW DELHI, PTI: India has permitted the blending of ethanol and other synthetic or man-made hydrocarbons in aviation turbine fuel (ATF), but has not set any immediate mandatory blending targets, according to a government notification. The move follows amendments to the Aviation Turbine Fuel (Regulation of Marketing) Order, 2001, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which broadened the definition of ATF to include blends with synthetic hydrocarbons.

Rupee falls 34 paise against US dollar

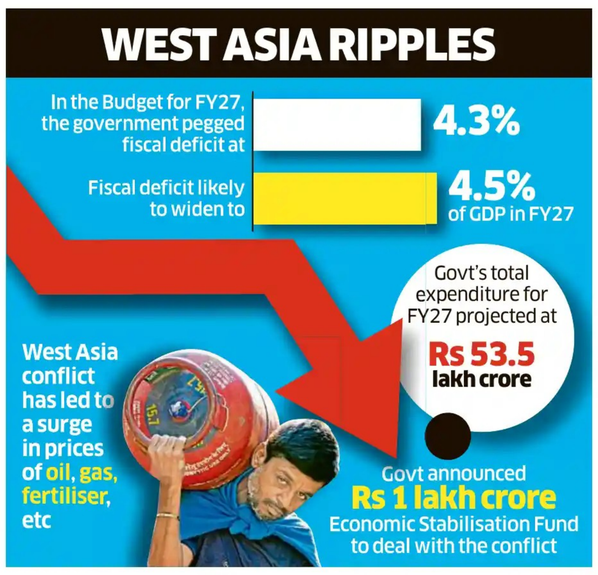
MUMBAI, PTI: Falling for the third straight session, the rupee declined 34 paise to close at 93.78 against the US dollar on Wednesday, as uncertainty over US-Iran peace talks eroded hopes of easing West Asia tensions and set crude prices on fire.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 93.69 and touched an intraday low of 93.87 against the greenback during the session. The domestic unit finally ended the session at 93.78 against the dollar, registering a loss of 34 paise from previous close.

TREMORS: High fertiliser, energy prices to push subsidy spending

India likely to miss FY27 fiscal deficit target: BMI

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS


WEST ASIA RIPPLES
In the Budget for FY27, the government pegged fiscal deficit at
4.3%
Fiscal deficit likely to widen to
4.5% of GDP in FY27
Govt's total expenditure for FY27 projected at
Rs 53.5 lakh crore
West Asia conflict has led to a surge in prices of oil, gas, fertiliser, etc
Govt announced
Rs 1 lakh crore
Economic Stabilisation Fund to deal with the conflict

India is likely to breach the budgeted 4.3% fiscal deficit target in the current financial year as a surge in fertiliser and energy prices due to the ongoing West Asia conflict would push subsidy spending, research firm BMI said on Wednesday.

According to BMI, a Fitch Group company, India's fiscal deficit is likely to widen to 4.5% of the country's GDP.

"We maintain our forecast that the Centre will register a fiscal deficit worth 4.5% of GDP in 2026-27. However, upside risks to our fiscal deficit outlook have increased," it said.

In the Union Budget, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government has pegged the fiscal deficit for the current financial year at 4.3% of GDP, marginally lower than the revised estimate of 4.4% in 2025-26.

Fiscal deficit is the gap between the government's revenue and expenditure.

The Centre's total expenditure for FY2026-27 has been pegged at Rs 53.5 lakh crore, while non-debt receipts are estimated at Rs 36.5 lakh crore. The Centre's net tax receipts for the current fiscal are estimated at Rs 28.7 lakh crore.

Fiscal deficit is the main operational instrument for debt targeting. If the fiscal deficit widens, the government will have to borrow more.

The West Asia conflict, which started nearly a month after the presentation of the Budget, has led to a surge in prices of oil, gas, fertiliser and other commodities. Fertiliser and fuel prices have a significant bearing on the government's subsidy.

The government may also be required to boost spending on supporting industries impacted due to the Gulf conflict.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has described the West Asia conflict as a "systemic tremor". At the same time, she has assured that the government will stick to its fiscal deficit target.

As a measure to deal with the conflict, the Centre has established a Rs 1 lakh crore Economic Stabilisation Fund.

"We estimate this will contribute 0.1% of GDP to fiscal expenditure in FY2026-27. New Delhi will likely spend the proceeds on additional subsidies for energy and fertiliser products," BMI said.

"The government's past fiscal consolidation efforts reduced expenditure on energy and fertiliser subsidies to around 1.5% of India's GDP in recent years. Given the importance of energy and fertilisers to India's economy, we expect this subsidy amount to rise in FY27," it added.

According to BMI, the stabilisation fund may also be used to finance temporary tax deductions. The Centre has cut customs duties on petrol and diesel to keep the retail prices unchanged. The government has also introduced temporary tax concessions on sales by firms operating in SEZs.

To cut spending, according to BMI, the Indian government might defer several energy-intensive public infrastructure projects to the next fiscal.

'MPC members voted for status quo on rates'

MUMBAI, PTI: Members of RBI's rate-setting panel voted for the status quo on interest rates earlier this month, citing uncertainties posed by the West Asia crisis and its impact on inflation, according to minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Wednesday.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra opined that the conflict poses challenges to the Indian economy through a number of channels – exports, supply of critical commodities, elevated energy and other commodity prices, remittances, uncertainty, and subdued global demand.

Sanjay Malhotra

Overall, uncertainties have intensified with the conflict widening its spread over the last month, he said.

As a result, supply chain disruptions, which may take longer to subside fully and restore the logistics network, pose downside risks to growth and upside risks to inflation.

"If the conflict remains unresolved for a long duration, it can make the task of central banks arduous in their endeavour to rein in inflation expectations while minimising growth sacrifice," the minutes quoted Malhotra as saying.

The Tesla Model Y L variant during its launch event in Mumbai on Wednesday. REUTERS

Tesla launches Model Y L in India

3-row, 6-seater SUV priced at Rs 61.99 lakh

MUMBAI, PTI

American electric carmaker Tesla on Wednesday announced acceleration of its journey in India, driving in the three-row, six-seater SUV Model Y L priced at Rs 61.99 lakh, its second offering in the country.

The company, which last year made its much-awaited entry into India with the launch of its Model Y, is also revving up expansion of charging network across highways connecting major cities.

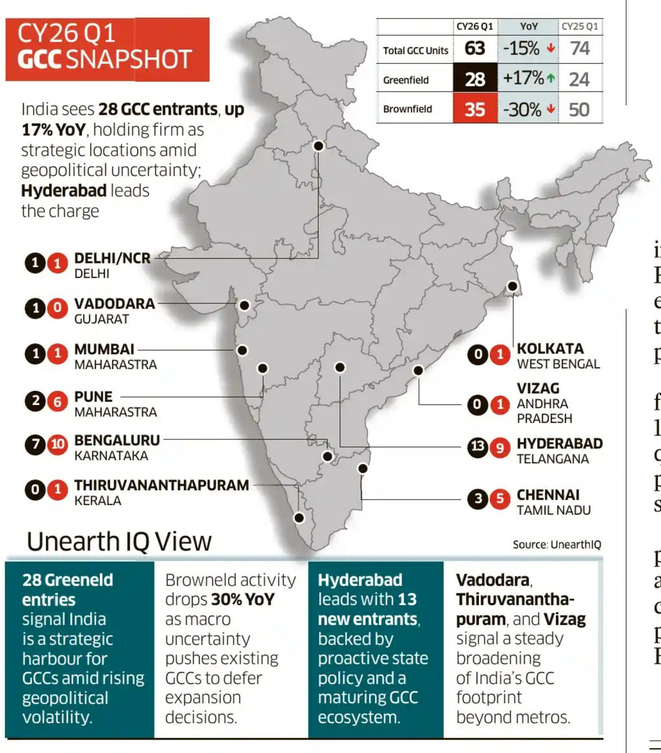
"What we are going to do in the coming quarter or in this quarter is to expand our service and body shop network and presence in cities of Bengal, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Ahmedabad," Tesla India General Manager Sharad Agarwal said.

Stating that Tesla will be closer to its customers, he said, "Service for us is more of peace of mind to our customers because you don't need to come to the Tesla service centre to fix your car."

"Charging is a very important part of the ecosystem that we are building here in India," he said, adding that the company had already enabled five supercharger stations in India and each of these locations was strategically selected.

Agarwal said Tesla is looking to "disrupt" the premium SUV segment with the newly-launched Model Y L.

"We want to build the charging around the lifestyle of our customers," he said.


CY26 Q1 GCC SNAPSHOT
India sees 28 GCC entrants, up 17% YoY, holding firm as strategic locations amid geopolitical uncertainty; Hyderabad leads the charge
CY26 Q1 | YoY | CY25 Q1
Total GCC Units 63 | -15% | 74
Greenfield 28 | +17% | 24
Brownfield 35 | -30% | 50
DELHI/NCR DELHI 1 1
VADODARA GUJARAT 1 0
MUMBAI MAHARASTRA 1 1
PUNE MAHARASTRA 2 6
BENGALURU KARNATAKA 7 10
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM KERALA 0 1
KOLKATA WEST BENGAL 0 1
VIZAG ANDHRA PRADESH 0 1
HYDERABAD TELANGANA 13 9
CHENNAI TAMIL NADU 3 5
Unearth IQ View
Source: UnearthIQ
28 Greeneld entries signal India is a strategic harbour for GCCs amid rising geopolitical volatility.
Browneld activity drops 30% YoY as macro uncertainty pushes existing GCCs to defer expansion decisions.
Hyderabad leads with 13 new entrants, backed by proactive state policy and a maturing GCC ecosystem.
Vadodara, Thiruvananthapuram, and Vizag signal a steady broadening of India's GCC footprint beyond metros.

Tech Mahindra Q4 net jumps 16% to Rs 1,354 cr

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm Tech Mahindra on Wednesday posted a 16% increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 1,354 crore for the quarter ended March 2026, compared to Rs 1,167 crore in the year-ago period.

The company's revenue from operations stood at Rs 15,076 crore for the fourth quarter, a 12.6% increase, compared to Rs 13,384 crore in the same quarter last year.

For the full FY26, the company's revenue from operations stood at Rs 56,815.4 crore, a 7.2% increase, compared to Rs 52,988.3 crore in FY25.

The company's EBIT margin stood at 13.8%, up about 330 bps YoY and its new deal wins stood at $1,073 million, which is up 34.5% YoY, but down 2.1% sequentially.

Mohit Joshi, CEO and MD, Tech Mahindra, said, "We are accelerating our transition to an AI-led organisation, embedding AI across services and expanding our capabilities to enhance value delivery for our clients. This is reflected in our highest deal wins in recent years, including consecutive quarters exceeding $1 billion. We remain focused on scaling with discipline and are on track to delivering our FY27 commitments."

The company's key deal wins include a multi-year AI-led transformation and outsourcing engagement with a major European telecommunications operator, spanning global customer support, quote-to-bill operations, and post-sales services. Agentic AI is embedded into the operating model via a proprietary orchestration platform to drive zero-touch operations, automation-led efficiency, and a joint go-to-market for AI-first services, the company said.

Increased dividend

Rohit Anand, CFO, Tech Mahindra, said, "FY26 marked the end of the Stabilisation Phase of our transformation journey, with margins expanding for the 10th consecutive quarter, despite a challenging macro environment. In line with our disciplined capital allocation framework and commitment to our shareholders, we increased the dividend by over 13%, taking total dividends declared for the year to Rs 51 per share, our highest ever."

The record date for entitlement of final dividend, will be July 3, 2026.

The firm's total headcount stood at 147,623, which is down 1,108 YoY and LTM IT attrition was at 12.1%.

The company said it is gearing up for new challenges and opportunities in FY27. It delivered sustained margin growth, driven by strong operational execution from Project Fortius. The firm also said consulting and GenAI will remain significant areas of investment.

Q4 highlights

Net profit: **Rs 1,354 cr** up 16% YoY

Revenue: **Rs 15,076 cr** up 12.6 % YoY

- EBIT: **Rs 2,084 crore**
- Diluted Earnings Per Share (EPS): **Rs 15.24**
- Total headcount: **147,623;** down 1,108 YoY

We are accelerating our transition to an AI-led organisation, embedding AI across services and expanding our capabilities.
MOHIT JOSHI, CEO and MD, Tech Mahindra

Bullish about our investment commitments in India: AWS

BENGALURU, DHNS: India continues to be a very strategic market as far as the overall AWS (Amazon Web Services) framework is concerned, and the company is committed to its investments being pushed into the country. Sandeep Dutta, President of India & South Asia, AWS, mentioned that AWS' AI services have reached a $15 billion annual revenue run rate as of Q1 2026 globally, and the momentum is going to be increasing. "In India, we are seeing a very broad-based demand when it comes to not just cloud, but AI, which is why we continue to deepen our investment profile," he said.

Dutta also mentioned that Amazon plans to invest over $35 billion across all its businesses in India through 2030, which will build on the $40 billion invested in India so far. Speaking at the AWS Summit here on Wednesday, Dutta highlighted how AWS has transformed partners' businesses.

Paytm uses AWS to serve over 350 million registered users. Since 2020, AWS has powered 200-250 daily live classes of Physics Wallah reaching 98% of India's pincodes with near-zero downtime.

AWS also showcased its own custom silicon chips. Dutta unveiled the Trainium3 AI chip and Graviton4 processor.

Developers acquire 3,093 acres of land in 2025, says report

BENGALURU, DHNS

Real estate developers acquired 3,093 acres of land across 149 transactions valued at Rs 54,818 crore in 2025, a 32% year-on-year increase. This is expected to unlock approximately 229 million sq ft of development over the next 2-5 years.

According to JLL research, the strong momentum has continued into 2026, with approximately 900 acres acquired across key markets in Q1 2026, valued at nearly Rs 18,000 crore. Mumbai Metropolitan Region recorded the country's largest land deal by value in Q1 2026, with an 11-acre parcel selling for Rs 5,400 crore (approximately Rs 490 crore per acre). This underscores strong investor appetite and the continued strength of high-value urban centres that are set to drive the next phase of growth.

Developing these newly-acquired land parcels in 2025 will require an estimated Rs 92,000 crore in total construction capital. Of this substantial investment, external financing needs are projected to exceed Rs 52,000 crore over the medium term. Meeting this significant capital requirement will likely necessitate a diversified funding approach, combining bank financing, private equity, and institutional capital to support the ambitious development pipeline across multiple real estate asset classes, JLL said.

"With strong demand fundamentals and a growing financing ecosystem, India's real estate sector is poised for sustained growth, a momentum that has carried into 2026, with approximately 900 acres already acquired across key markets in Q1 2026," said Lata Pillai, Senior MD & Head of Capital Markets, JLL India.

Godrej Industries to list capital, chemicals businesses

MUMBAI, PTI: Godrej Industries Group is looking to list two more businesses from its stable in the next five years, and more than double its market capitalisation to over Rs 5 lakh crore.

The group will invest up to Rs 7,000 crore, but concentrate on strengthening its existing businesses rather than getting into new areas.

Pirojsha Godrej, who was recently appointed Chairman-designate, on Wednesday said the group will increase focus on profitability and financial returns while upholding the values that have guided it for over a century.

At present, the market-cap of its three listed businesses — Godrej Consumer Products, Godrej Properties and Godrej Agrovet — is over Rs 1.60 lakh crore, while the two unlisted ones will add another Rs 25,000 crore, he said.

Pirojsha Godrej

"Two out of the three will get listed. I think capital and chemicals are probably the two front-runners for our listing," he said. The third business is a relatively newer venture called "Godrej Ventures".

STRONG DEAL WINS

'Coforge to remain one of the fastest-growing IT services firms'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mid-tier IT services firm Coforge, which recently announced it has received all regulatory approvals and statutory clearances in multiple jurisdictions for the acquisition of Encora, is expected to remain one of the fastest-growing IT services firms, according to analysts.

In December last year, Coforge announced the acquisition of Silicon Valley-based AI-native firm Encora for an enterprise value of about Rs 21,100 crore ($2.35 billion). Analysts said the acquisition will expand the West and Midwest US client footprint of the company.

Coforge CEO Sudhir Singh termed the acquisition of Encora as a defining moment for the firm.

"This, allied with Coforge's hyper-specialised industry expertise and execution intensity, is likely to further accelerate our industry-leading growth. It also sets us up as the tech services firm that is likely to be the first to deliver upon the promise of the AI-infused future that lies ahead of our industry," Singh said during the company's Q3 conference call.

Coforge, which will announce its Q4 FY26 earnings on May 5, will also consider the proposal of the payment of an interim dividend, if any. Motilal Oswal Financial Services said it expects the company to remain one of the fastest-growing IT services companies, with scope for margin recovery in the near term.

"We believe Coforge's strong executable order book and resilient client spending across verticals bode well for its organic business. Cross-sell opportunities in Cigniti remain highly synergistic for the company, and its sales engine remains best-in-class," the brokerage firm said. The company, like its larger peers, has been on an acquisition spree to strengthen its verticals.

In 2024, Coforge announced the acquisition of Cigniti Technologies and said the synergy benefits would propel the company to become a $2-billion firm by FY27. The company has set a $2 billion revenue target for FY27. The firm crossed $1 billion revenue milestone in 2023.

Sudhir Singh

"Coforge crossing the billion-dollar mark is a strong signal of where Indian IT is headed — towards specialised, AI-ready, domain-deep talent rather than generalist scale. The hiring conversation has fundamentally shifted in the last 18 months: enterprises are no longer asking for engineers; they are asking for problem-solvers fluent in GenAI, cloud, data, and a specific industry vertical. Companies that can build this kind of future-ready workforce — through a mix of lateral hiring, targeted leadership additions, and strong internal mobility — will define the next $1 billion and $5 billion stories out of India. Coforge's growth journey is an early indicator of that shift," Anuj Agrawal, Founder and CEO, Zyoin Group, said.

In Q3FY26, Coforge reported revenue of $478 million, up 4.4% sequentially in CC terms. PL Capital said the performance was driven by robust growth in the Healthcare and Hi-Tech segment, which grew 8.7% sequentially, while Insurance and Travel delivered steady growth of 1.4% and 1.7% QoQ, respectively.

Analysts are expecting the company to post strong deal wins in Q4. For the quarter ended December 2025, the IT services firm's deal momentum remained healthy, with Q3 TCV (total contract value) of $593 million (+15.4% QoQ), supported by six large deal wins.

During the company's Q3 conference call, Singh said the six large deals that they have signed in the seasonally weak Q3, the next 12-month signed order book that is 30% higher than where it was at the same time last year, and sustained growth across almost all key and top accounts, have set them up for continued robust growth performance not just in FY2026, but in FY2027 and hopefully beyond.

Apart from deal wins, the company is continuing its strong progress in Agentic AI. "Through our AI assets, we are making engineering faster, smarter, and more resilient, enabling speed-to-market, architectural modernisation, and precision in delivery," Simon Pearson, Global Head, Consulting & Solutions, said during the company's earnings conference call.

Motilal Oswal, in its report, mentioned that Coforge has high exposure to West Asia, with its estimates suggesting that about 5% of revenues are linked to the region.

Maldandi white jowar cultivated on the banks of the Doni river, in Vijayapura district. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

The 'white pearl' of Vijayapura

Once central to North Karnataka's food security, the climate-resilient Maldandi white jowar now seeks protection as modern farming threatens its distinct identity, writes Basavaraj Sampalli

The surging Doni river during the monsoon is often called the sorrow of Vijayapura, as it submerges vast tracts of agricultural land in the district's central part. In winter, however, it turns into a blessing, as its nutrient-rich alluvial soil helps the cultivation of Maldandi, a unique jowar variety.

Thanks to the Krishna, Bhima, Doni, Ghataprabha and Malaprabha rivers, Vijayapura has earned the title 'Punjab of Karnataka'. Its red and black soils, coupled with extensive irrigation, have turned this region into an agriculture and horticulture hub, especially for grapes and lemons. The distinctively tangy Indi lemons from the district recently secured a geographical indication (GI) tag, placing it on the global map. Now, the Maldandi white jowar (sorghum), fondly called 'Bijapur's white pearl', is also seeking a GI tag.

Maldandi, a distinctive white jowar variety, thrives even under minimal rainfall. Unlike water-intensive crops, it grows on residual soil moisture in winter, maintaining steady yields even under harsh sunlight and dry conditions. Its grains, uniform in size and shape, have a pearly white sheen that gives the variety its name.

Jowar is a staple crop in North Karnataka, with white jowar cultivation spread across regions such as Nargund and Ron in Gadag district, Ramdurg and Savadatti in Belagavi district, Navalgund and Dharwad in Dharwad district, and parts of Kalaburagi. However, according to Vijayapura Joint Director of Agriculture Shivanagouda Biradar, there is a marked difference in the Maldandi white jowar grown along the Doni river basin, a tributary of the Krishna.

"The Doni carries nutrient-rich alluvial deposits during the monsoon and spreads them across thousands of acres of farmland. This natural enrichment, combined with the region's winter climate, gives Maldandi its distinct quality and taste," he explains.

Khadak rotti made of Maldandi white jowar.

Cultural resonance

In North Karnataka, Maldandi white jowar is more than just a crop. It is a cultural cornerstone. For generations, jowar *rotti* has been central to daily meals, with locals often saying a meal is incomplete without it. Served hot and fresh or as *khadak rotti* (cooked longer to make it crisp and extend shelf life), it is typically paired with side dishes like brinjal curry, groundnut *chutney* and curds, especially the creamy curd from nearby Korti-Kolhar. The combination is popular not only in rural homes of North Karnataka but also in cities like Bengaluru.

Nutritionally, Maldandi jowar is a fibre-rich millet known for its cooling properties, making it well-suited to the region's hot climate. Its byproducts, such as *kanaki* (broken grain), are widely used as nutritious livestock fodder. A key feature of Maldandi *rotti* is its long shelf life, it can be stored for months without losing its taste or texture, making it ideal for travel and storage.

Maldandi white jowar has a documented history of at least 200 years, with a British-era gazetteer indicating its cultivation in the Doni basin since 1818. Its presence in the region is reflected in the Vachanas, folk literature and even institutional symbols, underscoring its cultural and historical significance.

Seethani fest

One of the cherished traditions associated with Maldandi jowar is the preparation of *seethani*. Before harvest, the tender ones are roasted over open flames, deshusked and seasoned with salt and spices. This simple yet flavourful snack evokes nostalgia and is a seasonal favourite across north Karnataka. In recent years, as part of cultural and agro-tourism initiatives, farmers have begun organising Seethani festivals, where visitors can enjoy freshly prepared *seethani* while experiencing farm life and local cuisine.

Losing ground

However, the cultivation of Maldandi white jowar has declined over the past decade. In 2009, it covered nearly 2.5 lakh hectares in Vijayapura district alone; today, it has fallen to around 59,000 hectares.

Progressive farmer Mallikarjun Budihal notes that Maldandi jowar once ensured both food security and income for farmers, even during the harshest droughts. Its leaves and stems were also used as cattle fodder. However, with the expansion of irrigation and the rise of mechanised farming, many farmers are shifting to more remunerative crops such as pigeon pea, sugarcane, cotton, maize and chickpea.

Currently, Maldandi yields about four to five quintals per acre over a four-month winter season, with market prices ranging between Rs 3,500 and Rs 4,000 per quintal. While demand exists in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the key challenge lies in preserving its nativity, as farmers increasingly sell different white jowar varieties in the name of Maldandi, eroding its distinct identity.

Biradar says groundwork is underway to secure a GI tag for Maldandi white jowar. Multiple rounds of discussions have been held with scientists and officials, and soil and crop samples from Vijayapura and nearby districts, including Bagalkot, Belagavi, Dharwad, Raichur, Gadag and Ballari, have been sent for analysis. A scientific report is being prepared to support the application, which will soon be submitted to the GI registry office in Chennai.

Officials say a GI tag could be a turning point for Maldandi white jowar, helping protect its identity, enhance market value and encourage its cultivation and sustainable farming practices.

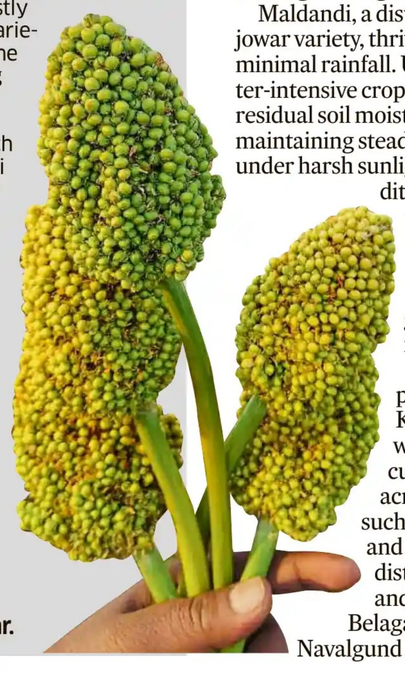
However, experts say official recognition alone is not enough. They stress the need for coordinated efforts among farmers, researchers and policymakers to conserve the original variety, expand its cultivation and ensure its continuity for future generations.

(Translated from Kannada by Pavan Kumar H)

MANY VARIETIES OF JOWAR

North Karnataka is home to at least 40 native varieties of jowar. Jowar grown in the Rabi season is preferred for consumption, while the Kharif jowar is mostly used as fodder. Among the varieties consumed, Maldandi is the most preferred for preparing rottis, as its dough has the right amount of stickiness. Apart from this, varieties such as Gatti Tene, Kempu, Sakkari Mukri and Kadabina Jola are used to prepare dishes like mudde, sangati, kadabu and other sweet dishes.

"The Aralu jola is used to make popcorn. Kannu Mucchuga, which gets its name from a black eye and eyelash-like marking on the grain, is used to prepare madli, a sweet dish. Then there is the Bhogapura variety, which grows up to 14 feet tall and is mainly used as fodder," explains agriculture expert Anandateertha Pyati.



Maldandi white jowar.

The 1323 AD inscription stone standing in front of Lakshmi Temple bears the name 'Hiriyagundagal'. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

A village of forgotten warriors

Inscribed hero stones in Hiregundagal in Tumakuru district trace battles from the time of the Western Gangas, writes Kirti Malhotra

After my visit to an engineering college in Tumakuru, I noticed a hill behind the campus, locally known as Gundagal Betta, and decided to walk towards it. Taking a road with a lake on my right, I turned left after passing a brick factory. A short walk later, I landed before a rectangular fenced enclosure housing several huge herostones. As the gate was locked, I could not have a closer look at them.

I soon realised I had reached the entrance to Hiregundagal village. Walking further in, I noticed a tall stone slab mounted on a platform in front of an ancient Lakshmi temple. On closer inspection, I found it bore an inscription. Interestingly, the inscription ended with five 'Shree' letters (symbols). Cemented behind it was a smaller stone panel depicting a royal couple riding an elephant.

Back home, I searched for references to Hiregundagal in *Epigraphia Carnatica* Vol 12, 1904 (EC12) which covers Tumakuru region but did not find any mention of the village. However, the Archaeological Survey of Mysore (ASM) annual reports recorded that by 1911, around 20 inscription stones were discovered at Hiregundagal and 18 among them were on herostones. The 1910 ASM report talks about the inscriptions on herostones 'relating mostly to the wars between the Gangas and the Rashtrakutas' and refers to 'the reigns of the Ganga kings Sripurusha and Shivamara II'. Sripurusha, the mighty king of Western Ganga Dynasty, ruled from 726 to 788 AD. His son Shivamara II was his successor.

These inscriptions were later compiled in *Epigraphia Carnatica* Vol 16 (EC16), published in 1956. Consulting this volume, I learned that 18 inscribed herostones from the 8th century stood in the field of a woman named Thimmakka. A grainy photograph showed them scattered across the field. There were three additional images of individual hero stones as well.

In EC16, I also found a 19-line inscription dated 1323 AD with the text ending with five 'Shree' symbols in the last line. That perfectly matched the slab at the Lakshmi temple. It recorded the grant of the village 'Hiriyagundagal' as a gift to 'Masani-Gavinda's son Chikkanna, by order of Pratapachakravarti Hoyisana-Sri-Vira-Ballala-Devarasa'. The village's name appears on the 13th line, confirming its documented history of over 700 years.

On a subsequent visit to Hiregundagal, I found the gate of the fenced enclosure open. Inside the private land maintained by the villagers were 13 stone slabs fixed to the ground, with the slabs 12 and 13 forming part of a single herostone. Remarkably, all the herostones bore inscriptions, though many had weathered with time.

The most striking among them was about eight feet tall and six feet wide, divided into three panels. The bottom panel depicted a hero on an elephant followed by another hero on a horseback with a sword in hand. The opponent is holding a sword and shield. The presence of a parasol-bearing man behind him indicated that he was a king or a chieftain. The inscription was on either side of the top panels showing *apsaras* lifting a hero to a heavenly abode. This was the only herostone among the 12 which depicted a hero on an elephant. I recalled seeing an image of this herostone in EC16. The inscription referred to Shivamara and Siyagella, the latter 'appears to have died' in the battle with Vallaha, a Rashtrakuta king. This correlated with ASM 1910 which inferred that 'Siyagella was one of the sons of Sripurusha' who died in the battle. It became clear that this grand hero stone commemorated Siyagella. I could also identify two other herostones illustrated in EC16. One commemorated a 'favourite servant' of Siyagella who died fighting Vallaha, while another mentioned Srijuddha, who fell in the same battle.

Before leaving, I thanked the villagers for preserving these 12 herostones. One can only hope that the remaining six, belonging to the same 8th-century group, may one day be rediscovered.

A herostone for the favourite servant of Siyagell who died fighting Rashtrakuta king Vallaha.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to:
spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Rediscovering the Sudha Kadi weave

Through field notes, visual records and collected narratives, Hemalatha Jain documents a weave from Dakshina Kannada now positioned within an archive of discontinued textiles

Fieldwork rarely follows a straight line. It meanders, guided as much by instinct as by intent. During an ethnographic study on natural dyes in Karnataka, one such instinct led me to the town of Moodbidri, an unexpected site that revealed the fading traces of a little-known textile tradition.

As I moved through the town in Dakshina Kannada and engaged in conversations with local people, my curiosity led me to a few Jain households. In one such home, almost hidden in a corner, I noticed a small pile of old saree rags — faded, frayed and repurposed for cleaning. They seemed ordinary, nearly invisible. But something about them made me pause.

A closer observation revealed faint structural details: parallel threads and intersecting checks, patterns that had survived wear and time. The fragments, though reduced to utility, carried the remnants of a once-distinct weave. These were Sudha Kadi sarees, a traditional weave of Dakshina Kannada.

There was something deeply moving about that moment. A saree that once held meaning and identity had slipped into anonymity, its story surviving only in memory and fragments. Yet, even in that condition, it had not completely disappeared.

The Sudha Kadi saree is defined by its simple yet profound design: two parallel lines run along the border, while the body is composed of weft threads intersecting these lines forming a chequered pattern that creates the illusion of connection. The parallel lines are said to represent the paths of sunrise and sunset, moving alongside each other, never meeting.

It is perhaps this that gives the saree its name. "Sudha" evokes a fleeting, almost sacred moment of transition, while "Kadi" refers to the lines that structure the weave. Together, they form a textile that is as philosophical as it is functional.

Further inquiry in Moodbidri led me to a more intact Sudha Kadi saree preserved in a Digamber Jain household. Unlike the earlier fragments, this piece retained its full form. Its lines were defined and its checks intact.

A woman weaves a Sudha Kadi saree; Sudha Kadi sarees. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

An everyday wear

Research through archives and conversations revealed that such sarees were common in Dakshina Kannada region during the 15th century. It was an everyday wear and was mostly worn by local farmers and labourers. It was specifically worn by married women.

It was mostly woven by the Devanga community weavers in Moodbidri, Bantwal, Puttur, Bajpe and Vitla areas. Over time, however, industrialisation and the rise of powerloom textiles led to their decline.

Cheaper, more durable alternatives replaced handwoven cottons, and with changing aspirations, these quiet weaves were gradually set aside. Today, the weaving of these sarees is almost nil in these two regions.

What remains today are scattered traces: an old saree preserved in a home, a few fragments tucked away, and a memory carried in stories. The craft itself is no longer practised. The looms that once created these patterns have fallen silent.

For me, this journey became something more than research. I had never visited Moodbidri before, yet it existed vividly in the stories of my maternal grandmother Ratana *Aaji*. She had once spoken of leaving her maternal home after her wedding as a loss. Yet here I was, finding my way back through her words, through memory, through a saree that refused to be forgotten.

Today, as I continue to document, catalogue and revive the sarees through my Punarjeevana Trust, Sudha Kadi becomes part of that archive. Not just as a textile, but as a story of movement, separation and quiet continuity.

(The author is a textile revivalist)

Preeti Pawar. X

Boxers Preeti, Arundhati in TOPS core group

NEW DELHI, PTI: Four Indian boxers - Preeti Pawar, Priya, Arundhati Chaudhary and Sachin - have been promoted to the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group following their impressive performances at the 2026 Asian Boxing Elite Championships, while three others have been inducted into the Development group.

The decision was taken during the 172nd Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting on Wednesday.

Preeti (54kg), Priya (60kg) and Arundhati (70kg) were crowned gold medallists at the continental meet in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia earlier this month, while Sachin (60kg) secured a silver.

The Mission Olympic Cell, which reviews athlete performances under the TOPS framework, based its decision on a detailed assessment of recent results, world rankings and performance progression.

Preeti is set to compete in both the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Asian Games in Japan, scheduled later this year. Alongside Preeti will be Jaismine (57kg), Priya (W60 kg), Arundhati (W70 kg), and Sachin (M60 kg).

Preeti, Priya and Sachin are also competing at the Asian Games.

Divine Right win main event

DELHI RESULTS

Ajay Sharma-trained Divine Right, ridden by K Sunny Kumar, won the DRC Racing Officials Cup, the feature event of the races on Wednesday.

1. Veer Yodha Plate -1000M: Salam Bhai (K Narender) 1; Bison (Riazuddin) 2; Weronika (R Rakesh) 3; Jet Falcon (K Sunny Kumar) 4; WB: 4 1/4, 1 1/4, 1 1/4L; T: 59.88; TB: Irfan Ali; Fav: Salam Bhai.

2. Ashwa Shakti Plate (Div I)- 1600M: Eliminator (Lave Kumar) 1; Ashwa Kanchenjunga (Sameer Qureshi) 2; Lodge Keeper (Dhanu Singh) 3; Angelo (G S Shekhawat) 4; WB: 2 1/2, 3, 14 1/4 L; T: 1:37.39; TB:Rajinder; Fav: Lodge Keeper.

3. Ashwa Shakti Plate (Div II) - 1600M: Ashwa Yudhvir (K Nazil) 1; Rinku Romeo (Arjun) 2; Golden Sun (Dhanu Singh) 3; Ashwa Frankie (Sameer Qureshi) 4; WB: 2 1/2, 1 3/4, Ns; T: 1:40.51; TB: S Nawab; Fav: Rinku Romeo.

4. Surya Pratap Plate - 1200M: Ustaad Ji (Arjun) 1; Master Bomber (Riazuddin) 2; Miss Boost (S Mosin) 3; Girl Power (S S Khadri) 4; WB: 3/4, 4 3/4, Shd; T: 1:14.51; TB: Shakti Singh; Fav:Ustaad Ji.

5. DRC Racing officials Cup - 1200M: Divine Right (K Sunny Kumar) 1; Trending Cruise (Dhanu Singh) 2; Attenborough (Vishal) 3; Dubai Falcon (Varun) 4; WB:2 1/4, 1/2, 1/2L; T: 1:12.40; TB: Ajay Sharma; Fav: Divine Right.

6. Vijay Shree Plate - 1400M: Nizbati Wings (Abdul Fazal) 1; Viggen (Varun) 2; Ashwa Denal (K Nazil) 3; Miss Berg (S Mosin) 4; WB: 1 1/4, 1/2, 1 3/4L; T: 1:26.45; TB: Raj Kumar Saini; Fav: Ashwa Denali.

Bengaluru Dividends

I race: Rs 14w; Rs 10, 38, 10p; Shp: Rs 132; Thp: Rs 40; Fc: Rs 294; Q: Rs 226; Tri: Rs 967 & 161; Exp: Rs 4,831 & 2,070.

II race: Rs 90w; Rs 38, 13 p; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 43; Fc: Rs 214; Q: Rs 92; Tri: Rs 381 & 155; Exp: Rs 1072 & 1247.

III race: Rs 16w; Rs 12, 10 p; Shp: Rs 19; Thp: Rs 28; Fc: Rs 35; Q: Rs 25; Tri: Rs 87 & 62; Exp: Rs 92 & 23.

IV race: Rs 31w; Rs 16, 34 p; Shp: Rs 75; Thp: Rs 26; Fc: Rs 330; Q: Rs 301; Tri: Rs 2,269 & 432; Exp: Rs 19,615 & 8,406.

V race: Rs 12w; Rs 10, 31, 17 p; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 28; Fc: Rs 150; Q: Rs 96; Tri: Rs 309 & 76; Exp: Rs 1,370 & 815.

VI race: Rs 82w; Rs 23, 17, 10 p; Shp: Rs 045; Thp: Rs 52; Fc: Rs 619; Q: Rs 264; Tri: Rs 1,322 & 517; Exp: Rs 14,113 & 6,048.

Jackpot: 67,946 & 1,373. **Treble**: 1,373.

FOOTBALL EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

Seagulls savour Chelsea chaos

Blues slump to their seventh defeat in eight games

BRIGHTON (UK), AFP

Chelsea crashed to a dismal 3-0 defeat against Brighton on Tuesday, leaving their hopes of qualifying for the Champions League in tatters as pressure mounts on beleaguered boss Liam Rosenior.

Rosenior's side produced one of their worst performances of a miserable season as Ferdi Kadioglu put Seagulls ahead in the first half before Jack Hinshelwood and Danny Welbeck netted after the interval.

It is the first time that Chelsea have lost five consecutive league games without scoring since 1912, fittingly the year that the Titanic sank.

Beaten seven times in their last eight games in all competitions, the Blues have just one victory in their past nine league matches.

Chelsea are languishing in seventh place, seven points behind fifth-placed Liverpool in the fight for the top-five finish that guarantees a Champions League berth.

Rosenior's team are in danger of missing out on European football altogether unless they can halt their wretched run.

They face Leeds in the FA Cup semi-finals on Sunday knowing a defeat at Wembley could push Rosenior to the brink of the sack just months after he arrived from Strasbourg to replace Enzo Maresca in January.

Rosenior this week claimed Chelsea's owners have been "magnificent" in their backing of him despite their alarming slump.

Chelsea co-owner Behdad Eghbali has said the club remain optimistic about long-term success under Rosenior.

But the atmosphere around Chelsea is turning increasingly toxic.

Boos greeted the full-time whistle following Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Manchester United at Stamford Bridge after supporters staged a protest against owners BlueCo ahead of kick-off.

There were more jeers for Rosenior and his players from Chelsea's fuming fans at Brighton, who climbed above the Blues into sixth place.

Rosenior switched to a back five in a bid to make Chelsea harder to break down, but it took just seconds for it to become apparent that his plan would backfire.

Kaoru Mitoma met Pascal Gross' cross with a stinging strike that forced a good save from Robert Sanchez in the opening moments.

It was a warning that Chelsea failed to heed as Brighton took the lead in the third minute.

Gross' corner was flicked on to Kadioglu as Chelsea failed to clear, their slow response allowing the defender to lash past Sanchez for his first goal in 17 months.

That was the signal for chants against Chelsea's owners from the Blues supporters packed into one end of the Amex Stadium.

Result: Brighton: 3 (Kadioglu 3rd, Hinshelwood 56th, Welbeck 90th) bt Chelsea: 0

Brighton's Jack Hinshelwood (right) scores their second goal against Chelsea at The American Express Community Stadium on Tuesday night. REUTERS

Mbappe grinds out Real win over Alaves

MADRID, AP

Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior each scored as Real Madrid ended a four-game winless streak by defeating Alaves 2-1 on Tuesday to move closer to Spanish league leader Barcelona.

The victory at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium left Madrid six points behind Barcelona, who host sixth-placed Celta Vigo in the midweek.

Meanwhile, Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon saved a penalty kick and made a few other key stops to help ninth-place Athletic Bilbao hold on for a 1-0 win against midtable Osasuna at home.

Mallorca drew 1-1 with visiting Valencia.

Fifth-place Real Betis won 3-2 at 11th-place Girona, with Rodrigo Riquelme scoring an 80th-minute winner. It was Madrid's first game since they were eliminated by Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League. Madrid lost 2-1 at home and 4-3 in Germany in the second leg. The team's last two Spanish league matches had been a 1-1 home draw against Girona and a 2-1 loss at Mallorca.

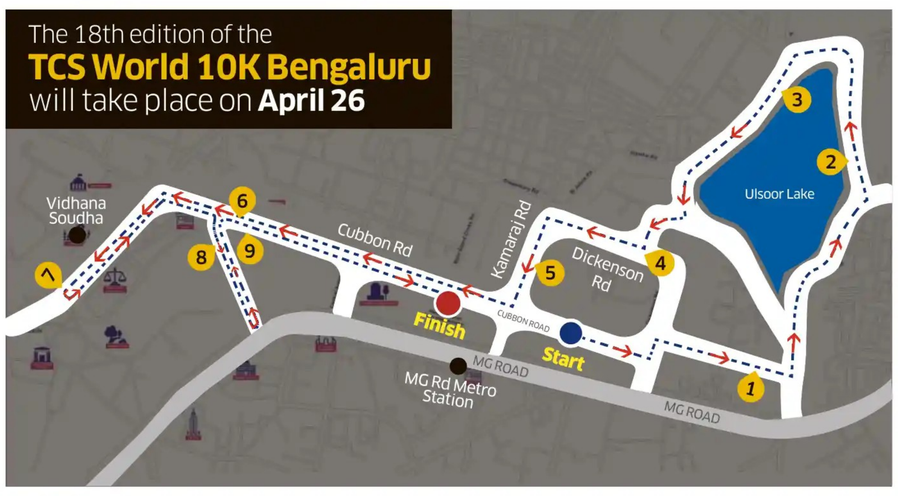
"We have six games left," Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa said. "The goal is to win all of them, regardless of what happens. Every game counts."

It was slow start for Madrid on Tuesday and the crowd at the Bernabeu looked anxious as Alaves had a few scoring chances early. Part of the fans jeered as the team struggled. There were some boos after the final whistle as well after Alaves scored late.

Mbappe broke the deadlock in the 30th minute with a shot that deflected on an Alaves defender and fooled goalkeeper Antonio Sivera.

Results: Real Madrid: 2 (Mbappe 30th, Vinicius 50th) bt Alaves: 1 (Martinez 90+3rd); Real Mallorca: 1 (Costa 49th) drew with Valencia: 1 (Umar 67th); Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Guruzeta 16th) bt Osasuna: 0; Girona: 2 (Tsygankov 7th, Ounahi 68th P) lt to Real Betis: 3 (Roca 23rd, Ezzalzouli 63rd, Riquelme 80th).

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe (right) netted a brace against Deportivo Alaves at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Tuesday night.



World 10K route rejigged to assist faster timings

BENGALURU, DHNS

With a record 36,000 runners set to participate in the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Procam International—the race promoters—made changes to the route after taking cognisance of the troubles athletes faced last year.

Organisers believe the changes, which include the removal of two congested U-turns, will assist athletes in clocking their personal best.

"We are going all around Ulsoor Lake that reduces two u-turns," said race director Hugh Jones. "So that's a big plus for the runners and that too at the start of the race where the runners are quite close to each other."

The length of the route was reduced at the KR Circle after runners had trouble with the elevation on the stretch. The distance was accommodated with a U-turn route at the Queens Road.

The organisers also revealed that the metro services will commence as early as 3:20 am from various parts to the venue on the race day.

Metros will be available at a frequency of 15 minutes for the first hour followed by a 30-minute interval until 7 am.

The event, which also includes a virtual run category, will be taking place in various categories, along with elite (World 10k) and open categories.

While 98 runners will compete in the elite categories — including talented African and top Indian long-distance runners in both men and women — the Open 10k will see over 22,000 participants.

The Majja Run category will see 12,000-plus participants while the Senior Citizen category has attracted over 1500 entries. For the differently-abled athletes category, the event has seen 800-odd entries.

The races will be flagged off at dawn (5:30 am) with the elite categories at Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Parade Ground near Cubbon Road and will run around the Ulsoor Lake, Dickenson Road and Vidhana Soudha before circling back to the Cubbon Road for the finish line.

Sri Lanka government tells cricket board to quit

COLOMBO, AFP: Sri Lanka's government has urged the national cricket board's executive committee to make way for a new administration by this weekend, a board official said on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka Cricket is the country's richest sporting body but it has been plagued by allegations of corruption and mismanagement. It is currently led by four-time president Shammi Silva.

"There will be an interim administration headed by a former investment banker," the official said, asking not to be named.

"The government is responding to public anger."

Sri Lanka made an early exit from the T20 World Cup, which it hosted with India in February-March.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), the world governing body, suspended Sri Lanka's membership in November 2023 citing political interference in the running of the local board.

That suspension was lifted at the end of January 2024.

India bag four medals

CAIRO, PTI

India's junior shooters picked up four more medals, including three silver and a bronze, on day two of the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Wednesday.

India are currently third on the medal tally as athletes from Kazakhstan and Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) won four of the five gold on offer on competition day two.

Rohit Kanyan gave India their first silver of the day in the 50m rifle prone men junior event with an effort of 615.8, just 0.5 behind Kazakhstan's gold winning Oleg Noskov.

Sejal Kamble then topped the junior women's 25m pistol qualifiers with a score of 580 and then went on to finish second in the final with 27 hits. AIN's Katsiaryna Ivanova took gold with 31 hits in the eight five-shot series final.

India secured a second double podium in the competition after Shiva Narwal and Chirag Sharma's heroics on day one, with Raj Chandra shooting 580 and Abhinav Deshwal 578, for silver and bronze respectively in the 25m pistol men junior event.

In the junior women's skeet, Risham Guron (24, 23, 21, 23, 24) qualified second with a score of 115 and then finished seventh in the final.

Thai F1 driver Albon backs Indian Grand Prix

NEW DELHI, PTI

As India pushes to bring Formula One back to the country, Williams driver Alex Albon **(in pic)** on Wednesday said a return would be "fantastic" and one he would be "excited" to be part of.

The Indian Grand Prix was held from 2011 to 2013 before being discontinued due to tax and bureaucratic hurdles.

However, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is now pushing for F1 to return to India as soon as the 2027 season.

"It would be fantastic to have an Indian race. I'll be excited to drive there. From what I've heard, there's been a big interest in F1 throughout India recently," Albon said.

The proposed venue is the Buddh International Circuit, which hosted all three previous editions of the race.

"I never got to drive the track. It looks like a fantastic circuit, and I think the drivers enjoyed it back then. Maybe Fernando (Alonso) and Lewis (Hamilton) will have a bit of an advantage to everyone else," Albon added.

IN BRIEF

Muthu guides BUHC home

Muthu Kumar struck brace in the space of six minutes (30th, 36th) as Bangalore United Hockey Club defeated HMT Sports Club 3-1 in a KSHA 'A' Division Hockey League Championship match in Bengaluru on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

Result: Bangalore United Hockey Club: 3 (Sunil Kiran 25th, Muthu Kumar 30th, 36th) bt HMT Sports Club: 1 (Rohit 8th).

Semifinals on Thursday: Guru Hockey Club vs Bangalore United Hockey Club and Blue Star Hockey Club vs Bombers Hockey Club.

Nandi Monsoon Run returns

The second edition of the DivyaSree Nandi Monsoon Run (DNMR), South India's only hill run, will be held on August 9 at the Nandi Hills near Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

The race will have a half-marathon and 10k run, with a target of attracting over 6,000 participants.

India drawn in Group B

The Indian women's football team has been drawn alongside Bangladesh and the Maldives in Group B of the SAFF Women's Championship to be held in Margao, Goa, from May 25 to June 6, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Group A features Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals, according to the draw conducted at the SAFF Secretariat in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The draw: Group A: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan.

Group B: India, Bangladesh, Maldives.

India in FIFA's WDP

India was on Wednesday included among 12 countries selected by world football governing body FIFA for its Women's Development Programme, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The other countries are Germany, Holland, Sweden, Scotland, Canada, Mexico, Finland, Ghana, Jordan, Lithuania and Paraguay.

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
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"Samparka Soudha" Survey No.8, (B.E.P Premises),
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e-mail: mdkrdcl@gmail.com & cekrdcl@gmail.com

No: KRDCL/IFB/2026-27/02 Date: 09-04-2026

SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION (Only through KPP portal)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites bids from reputed Consultants for providing tender basis in two cover system as detailed below. Selection will be based on Quality & Cost Based Selection Procedure (QCBS).

Name of the Work: **Consultancy Services including revalidation studies, preparation of DPR for Road No.06 of Bangalore Surroundings roads (Phase-II) Development of Nelamangala Bidadi Road (from Vishwanathapura Junction on old NH-4 Road to Bidadi via Tavarekere, Dodderi) in Bangalore Urban/Rural District, Karnataka".** Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakh) (Incl. GST): **35,00,000/-.** EMD (in Rs.): **35,000/-.** Approx. length (in Km): **42.** Period of Services: **30 days.**

1. Interested applicants may access bidding documents from the Kpp Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and upload completed proposals and EMD (on-line) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only. **2.** The calendar of events for various activities to be referred in KPP Portal.

Note: Henceforth, any changes/modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPP Portal.

DIPR/CP/RO293/AAPL/2026-27

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER KRDCL, BENGALURU.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-1, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560 091.

No: SADH/BWCC/RRN/TENDER/01/2026-27 Date: 22.04.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Rajarajeshwari Nagara) (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/ Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Providing Chain Link Fencing and Other Development Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Maintenance of Parks/Medians and Circles in Ullal-16. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.79,52,850/-. **EMD Amount:** Rs.1,59,100/-. **Stipulated period of Completion:** 22 Months. **Category:** Others.

Calendar of Events: 1) Date of Notification: **22.04.2026.** 2) Tender can be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK from : **24.04.2026** onwards. 3) Pre-bid meeting: **27.04.2026.** 4) Tender Closing date: **30.04.2026**, **at.5.00 p.m.** 5) Technical Bid opening date: **02.05.2026, 11.00 a.m.** onwards. 6) Financial bid opening date: **After approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or from the KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bengaluru West City Corporation Zone-1, Rajarajeshwarinagar.

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-200329 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

No:RDWS&SD/CTA/TS/TENDER/2026-27/40
Date: 18.04.2026

Tender Notification

On behalf of the Honarable Governor of Karnataka as per the provisions of the Standard Tender Document, tender is invited for the Empanelement of Third Party Inspection Agency (TPIA) for the inspection of Jal Jeevan Mission(Invillage Works) and other works under RDWS&SD, Chitradurga in two-Cover System through KPPP portal from eligible Firms/Agencies registered under the Companies Act. Estimate Cost: Rs.169.50 Lakhs, Pre-bid Meeting Date:23.04.2026, Last date for Tender Submission: 02.05.2026, Technical bid opening Date:04.05.2026, Financial bid opening Date:06.05.2026. For more information contact Executive Engineer's office during working hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/54/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tenders for the following Civil Engineering works coming under Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone through e-procurement portal in two cover system.

Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/BD/WORKS_INDENT 1041 CALL-II for Construction of meeting hall head room, parapet wall, providing lift and other allied works to S-14 Sub division office, Jayanagar Division, BESCOM, Bangalore. **Estimated amount :** Rs.130.00 lakhs. **Estimated Amount put to tender :** Rs. 110.16 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 1.66 lakhs.

Time Schedule: (a) Pre bid Meeting date and time : **30.04.2026 @ 15.00 Hrs. (b)** Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **05.05.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs. (c)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of Tenders : **08.05.2026 up to 11.00 Hrs. (d)** Date & time of Opening Technical bid : **11.05.2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (e)** Date & time of Opening Price bid : Will be intimated after technical evaluation to the responsive bidder.

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement by visiting web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Karnataka public Procurement portal. on or after **23.04.2026.** For any clarification contact e-procurement helps desk +91-80-46010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail to **support@ihelpdsk.com.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele), Bangalore Metropolitan Area South Zone,BESCOM

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IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> Bowlers who can offer something to the captain was our plan. If you talk about Sakib (Hussain) and (Eshan) Malinga, they almost remove the surface from the equation with their skills.
>
> **VARUN AARON**
> **SRH BOWLING COACH**

Ayush Mhatre

No thought on Mhatre's replacement yet: Simons

MUMBAI, PTI: Bowling coach Eric Simons stated on Wednesday that Chennai Super Kings have no immediate replacement for Ayush Mhatre, adding that MS Dhoni's availability remains contingent on medical clearance and the former skipper's own assessment of his fitness.

CSK suffered a big blow when an in-form Mhatre was ruled out of the IPL due to a hamstring injury and Simons said the franchise wants to use the available resources for now.

"We haven't got any replacements in mind at the moment," Simons told reporters on the eve of their IPL contest against Mumbai Indians here on Thursday.

"With what we have in the squad, there's plenty of time left for a replacement to be made and to be known. But at the moment we're going to use the resources we have to pull a side," he added.

After having a full training session on Tuesday, Dhoni spent a considerable time in the nets facing pacers and throwdown specialists on Wednesday but it remains to be seen if the former skipper would be available for the contest.

"(Regarding) MS, we will know tomorrow.. that decision will be made once he in particular and the medical staff are completely happy that he is ready to go," Simons said.

Simons confirmed that Spencer Johnson has joined the squad but refused to say when the Australian pacer would be available to play.

Royals humble Super Giants

Batters come a cropper again as Lucknow slump to 4th loss on trot

LUCKNOW, PTI

Lucknow Super Giants batters, led by their mercurial skipper Rishabh Pant, let Mohammed Shami's brilliant bowling effort go down the drain with an embarrassing 40-run defeat at the hands of an equally profligate Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 160, LSG huffed and puffed before being shot out for 119 in 18 overs after the slide started with their skipper Pant playing the most ugly sweep-cum- hoick to let the momentum slip after Shami, along with Mohsin Khan and Prince Yadav, had set up the platform for the hosts.

The decision to use a player like Himmat Singh as 'Impact Sub' will be questioned for the longest time as the player in nearly a decade of domestic cricket never won a SMAT game for Delhi with a career strike rate of 135 and less than a six per game.

The win took Royals to the second spot with 10 points from seven games despite a shoddy batting effort.

Royals would be indebted to their 'OG' Ravindra Jadeja (43 no off 29 balls and 1/29) whose all-round effort went a long way in securing the win. His partnership with Shubham Dubey got them some kind of a total and then with the ball, he flung the data analysts' match-up card to remove Nicholas Pooran.

While Royals' batting has been inconsistent this season, the bowlers have been on the money as Rishabh Pant was dismissed by Nandre Burger (2/27), and Jofra Archer (3/20) accounted for Aiden Markram with a rising delivery. This was after Ayush Badoni was unfortunately run-out.

Mitchell Marsh (55 off 41 balls) held the innings together even as likes of Nicholas Pooran and Himmat Singh went back playing some irresponsible shots.

It was left to Mukul Choudhary, who still is a work in progress and haven't yet learnt how to tackle bouncers that grip off the surface.

Earlier, Shami delivered a couple of beauties while Mohsin snuffed out teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to restrict Royals to a meagre 159 for 6 after opting to bowl.

This is the third time in three games that Royals' top order has imploded and things have spiralled southwards for the franchise.

The experience and class of Shami (2/30 in 4 overs) the Test bowler stood apart while the lanky Mohsin (2/17 in 4 overs) was extremely disciplined.

Ravindra Jadeja (third from right) did a star turn with his all-round show for Rajasthan Royals as they successfully defended a total of 159 against Lucknow Super Giants in their IPL game in Lucknow on Wednesday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Pant b Shami 22, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Rathi b Mohsin 8, Dhruv Jurel c Pant b Shami 0, Riyan Parag c Pooran b Prince 20, Shimron Hetmyer c Prince b Mohsin 22, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 43, Donovan Ferreira c Mohsin b Prince 20, Shubham Dubey (not out) 19. Extras: (LB-1, W-4) 5. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts in 20 overs) 159.**

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-32, 3-32, 4-62, 5-77, 6-110.

Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-2, Prince Yadav 4-0-29-2, Mohsin Khan 4-1-17-2, Mayank Yadav 4-0-56-0, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-26-0.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS: Mitchell Marsh c Parag b Burger 55, Ayush Badoni (run out) 0, Rishabh Pant c Jurel b Burger 0, Aiden Markram c Jurel b Archer 0, Nicholas Pooran c Ferreira b Jadeja 22, Himmat Singh b Bishnoi 15, Mukul Choudhary c Parag b Brijesh 7, Mohammed Shami b Brijesh 6, Mayank Yadav c Jurel b Archer 5, Digvesh Rathi (not out) 2, Mohsin Khan b Archer 0. Extras: (LB-2, W-5) 7. **TOTAL (all out in 18 overs) 119.**

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-10, 3-11, 4-54, 5-91, 6-105, 7-111, 8-113, 9-119. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-1-20-3, Nandre Burger 4-0-27-2, Brijesh Sharma 3-0-18-2, Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-29-1, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-23-1. **Result:** RR won by 40 runs. **PoM:** Ravindra Jadeja.

Struggling giants MI, CSK eye consistency

MUMBAI, PTI

Struggling former champions Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings will be eyeing consistency as they await the return of their former captains Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni, respectively, when they face off in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Rohit (hamstring) and Dhoni (calf strain) are on the comeback trail, but it remains to be seen whether either will take the field at Wankhede Stadium for what has historically been an iconic IPL clash.

Rohit missed training during the optional session on Tuesday, while Dhoni, yet to feature in this IPL, went through his drills, hinting at a possible comeback as an Impact Substitute.

However, the subplot goes beyond the two Indian stalwarts, with both teams -- who share 10 IPL titles between them -- still battling multiple issues on several fronts.

CSK began the tournament in search of form and the right combination, as most teams do, and just as they appeared to be settling, a hamstring injury to local talent Ayush Mhatre, who had scored 201 runs, dealt a major blow.

CSK's MS Dhoni still remains uncertain for the match against MI at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

Once again, CSK find themselves back at the drawing board, looking to fill the gap in their batting reserves, with Gujarat wicketkeeper-batter Urvil Patel among the options.

CSK will be keen to see their batters fire collectively after a disappointing loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, a match they should have closed out comfortably while chasing 130 off 90 balls with eight wickets in hand, but a lack of initiative from the middle order allowed SRH to turn the tide in their favour.

While Sarfaraz has been consistent with 147 runs, he is yet to convert starts into a big innings.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	6	5	0	1	11	1.420
Rajasthan Royals	7	5	2	0	10	0.790
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	0	8	1.171
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	4	3	0	8	0.820
Delhi Capitals	6	3	3	0	6	-0.130
Gujarat Titans	6	3	3	0	6	-0.821
Mumbai Indians	6	2	4	0	4	0.067
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.780
Lucknow Super Giants	7	2	5	0	4	-1.277
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	1	5	1	3	-0.879

Three players from Puducherry suspended

PUDUCHERRY, PTI: Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) has suspended three of its first-class cricketers with immediate effect on allegations that they assaulted U-19 state team coach Venkataraman on December 8 last year, the state body announced on Wednesday.

The three players -- J Karthikeyan, A Aravindaraj and S Santhosh Kumaran -- have all represented Puducherry across Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in recent years. In fact, Aravindaraj had represented the union territory during last domestic season too.

A press release issued by CAP said: "The trio have been charged with attempt to murder and assault on Venkataraman. A formal charge sheet has been filed by Station House Officer (SHO) Sedurapet Police Station under FIR 100/2025 and the matter is pending before Judicial Magistrate -IV Court Puducherry."

The CAP, in its own capacity, has "suspended the players" from entering any of its said campus and they are prohibited from using any of state association's facilities. The players will not be allowed to play in any national or external tournaments.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

ISL: Kerala Blasters vs Odisha **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

Pragmatic Iyer stays motivated for next chance

Madhya Pradesh batter has gotten just one chance with RCB in six outings

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

At the start of this decade, Venkatesh Iyer had almost everything going his way. Promoted as an opener by then Kolkata Knight Riders coach Brendon McCullum during the 2021 IPL season, the southpaw took to the new batting position like a fish to water, smashing 370 runs in 10 innings.

Having given up a well-paying job at a leading accounting firm in 2018 to focus solely on cricket, the MBA Finance graduate was waiting for that big opportunity on the cricket field to announce himself. His blazing starts in the Power Play, plus his ability to deliver a couple of overs in the middle phase, turned him into a bankable asset for KKR.

Within months, his stock rose multifold as he made his India debut during the series against New Zealand in November 2021. With Hardik Pandya struggling with frequent injuries, Iyer was even considered as a proper backup for the Baroda all-rounder. An appearance in the 2021 and 2022 World Cups was plausible too.

KKR retained him for Rs 8 crore over the next three seasons -- he was first bought at his base price of Rs 20 lakh -- before releasing him in 2025 and buying him back for a whopping Rs 23.75 crore. Iyer, following a poor sophomoric outing, hit form in 2023 (404 runs) and 2024 (370 runs), and was a key member in KKR's third title triumph in 2024. Life was perfect.

However, since last year, his fortunes have taken a massive nosedive. Not only is he out of the national scheme of things, but he was also released by KKR and was picked up by Royal Challengers Bengaluru for Rs 7 crore – a massive climbdown for a cricketer who promised a lot and delivered too.

Although he has a new home now, given the abundance of talent in RCB, there's no guarantee that the 31-year-old will get adequate game-time. In fact, so far, Iyer has played just one game, that too as an Impact Substitute. Life has returned to the phase where he has to wait for an opportunity.

While there is visible disappointment on his face, the gritty Iyer feels all is not lost and he's looking forward to the season with great hope. "It is hard to be honest. It's something that you can't prepare. But I'm a practical person," said a candid Iyer during an interaction on Wednesday.

"Not used to sitting out, but that's okay. See, this is a professional sport. I know how things work. When I sit on the blocks and look at the team, I know that there's a realistic chance that I can be benched. And that's okay. This is not the first time that I'm sitting out. And that's the beauty of this game. It shows you so many things."

Iyer, having gone through the highs and now enduring a not-so-good time, said staying motivated is very crucial to stay afloat in the ruthless world of sport, where failures can sting even the strong-minded.

"It's extremely important to stay motivated because you can easily get desperate. You can easily lose out on your work ethic. So I train my mind in such a way that I'm going to play every game. With the Impact Player, anything can happen. Again, it comes down to professionalism as to how to prepare for a game. It's definitely not easy.

"But at the same time, I've always lived my life in a way that I compare myself with where I was yesterday. To look back at where I am in life, not just a game, is something that keeps me going. No one can take away what I have achieved till now.

"So these things keep me motivated. And at the same time, I'm just working hard. That's the only thing you can do. Keep creating an impact on the coaches that if I get an opportunity, I'll do well. That's all I can do and that's all I'm focussing on."

The beauty of sports is that it offers second chances to those who stay strong. Resolute Iyer is looking forward to that opening to give his IPL career a second wind.

Iyer in favour of Impact Player now

Ever since its inception in the IPL in 2023, the Impact Player rule has come in for severe criticism, especially from the Indian captains. The unanimous opinion amongst most is that it curtails the growth of all-rounders and takes the charm out of the game, which is supposed to be played between XI vs XI, reports Sidney Kiran.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Rs 7 crore acquisition Venkatesh Iyer, who once was critical of Impact Player rule, seems to have a change of heart now.

"It's actually a very tricky question. Impact Player never stopped a Hardik (Pandya) or a (Andre) Russell or a (Sunil) Narine from bowling four overs. It's not stopping Nitish Reddy from bowling four overs. If you have the skill set and if a captain believes in you, then you will still be the all-rounder that your team wants," reckoned Iyer.

"All what it does is actually gives you the opportunity to brush up your all-round skills. It actually pushes you to be the best all-rounder version that you can be. But yeah, especially when India needs a lot of fast bowlers, India needs players who can contribute in both facets."

Venkatesh Iyer is hoping to get a few chances with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

FIFA adds costlier ticket categories for World Cup

WASHINGTON, AP: FIFA is putting more World Cup tickets on sale after angering some fans by adding new, more expensive categories.

Soccer's governing body announced Tuesday it will make more tickets available at 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday for all 104 games in Categories 1, 2 and 3 plus the new "front category" pricing it added this month.

The new category sparked online complaints from fans who said they thought the better seats in the categories they had bought tickets for were withheld and they were assigned less favorable locations.

FIFA in December put tickets on sale at prices ranging from $140 for Category 3 in the first round to $8,680 for the final, then raised prices to as much as $10,990 when sales reopened on April 1.

FIFA did not respond to an April 9 request for comment about the new ticket categories it added.

Also Tuesday, The Athletic reported that tickets sales are lagging for the US opener against Paraguay on June 12 in California. It said a document distributed to local organizers dated April 10 said 40,934 tickets had been purchased for the US-Paraguay game.

Veteran Venus eyes French Open

MADRID, AP

Venus Williams has her sights on the French Open.

The 45-year-old former world No. 1 said on Tuesday after losing her 10th straight singles match that she is considering playing at Roland Garros next month.

"Yeah, I mean, to get my feet dirty, this was a great start," she said in her post-match news conference at the Madrid Open.

"I'm not able to play Rome, I have other commitments, unfortunately, so I'm really super sad about that, actually. My husband is Italian, so we feel sad that we can't be there. So we would love to keep it going on the clay."

Venus Williams

Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, lost 6-2, 6-4 to 20-year-old Spaniard Kaitlin Quevedo. Williams hadn't played in Madrid in five years. Her last tournament on clay had been at the 2021 French Open, when she lost her first match to Ekaterina Alexandrova.

"All these things take adjustments," Williams said. "I started my practice on clay a couple weeks after Miami. I haven't really played on clay in years. But I enjoy the clay, it's fun. I played against a very inspired opponent today."

Williams' last win on tour was against Peyton Stearns in the round of 16 of an WTA 500 event in Washington in July 2025. This year, she had already lost in Auckland, Hobart, the Australian Open, Austin, Indian Wells and Miami.

Quevedo earned her first WTA 1000 main-draw win, and just the second tour-level victory of her career.

Qualifiers Gandharv, Shreenithi create a flutter

BENGALURU, DHNS: Qualifier Gandharv G stormed into the men's singles semifinals of the TNR Memorial AITA Rs 1 lakh prize money tennis tournament at Topspin Tennis Academy courts here on Wednesday.

Gandharv, in an all-Karnataka quarterfinal clash, defeated Soma Suhas 7-5, 6-1.

Vishal V got the better of Prakaash 7-6 (9), 6-4 while SM Adithya beat Manish Ganesh 6-1, 6-4. Deepak A, however, came through in a tough three-setter against Sandilya (6-0, 4-6, 6-2) to complete the semifinal lineup. A similar script unfolded in the women's singles too as qualifier Shreenithi C of Karnataka humbled Meghana GD 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 to enter the last four. Joining Shreenithi in the last four was Hridayeshi P, who scored a 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (4) victory over Ananya J.

Results (men's singles quarterfinals): Vishal V bt Prakaash 7-6 (9), 6-4; Gandhrav G bt Soma Suhas 7-5, 6-1; SM Adithya bt Manish Ganesh 6-1, 6-4; Deepak A bt Sandilya 6-0, 4-6, 6-2. **Women's singles:** Hridayeshi P bt Ananya J 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (4); Saiyette V bt Nidi S 6-3, 6-3; Sonicka J bt Ananya SR 6-4, 6-3; Shreenithi C bt Meghana GD 2-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com